

What's a girl to do?

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FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 1996 Paris awaits the plumber's son

Fashion, Section Two

PM rebuts leadership rumours Shaky Major bows to right over Europe

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major yesterday unexpectedly bowed to Eurosceptic pressure by ordering a White Paper on Europe as he and party managers moved ur-gently to defuse a fresh bout of speculation about his leadership.

In a move which took senior Tories by surprise, Mr Major ig-nored calls from the Tory left not to risk re-opening the dehate on Europe by publishing a White Paper. Instead, the Cabinet accepted Mr Major's recommendation to publish one before the intergovernmental conference on the EU's future begins on 29 March.

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The White Paper was announced as Mr Major dismissed as "silly speculation" a fresh spate of reports suggesting that he could face a plot to unseat him after the wholesale losses - of up to 800 out of over 1,000 contested council seats - which the party fears in the May

While opinion differed sharply among senior oppo-nents of Mr Major over whether such a challenge was feasible -let alone capable of success - Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, took the highly unusual step of issuing a statement saying the reports were

The Prime Minister yesterday visited the Commons tea-room after telling MPs in the Chamber: "We have have this silly speculation almost every week there's a Thursday in. It's been nonsense in the past and it's nonsense now." According to one MP who spoke to him in the tea-room, Mr Major suggested that be knew who had planted the story and implied that it was a figure in the Lords rather than

As the former Tory chairman Sir Norman Fowler also rejected the reports but acknowledged that there was a *maverick minority" who might want to unseat Mr Major, it emerged that senior members



John Major: Talk of a plot is just 'silly speculation'

of the Tory parliamentary party are determined to resist aspirations by constituency parties to be given a formal voice in choosing future party

The issue has taken on a new importance because of signs that the executive of the 1922 committee are reluctant to decide radical changes to the leader-ship rules which could constitutionally preclude a further leadership challenge to Mr Ma-

jor before the general election. Lord Feldman, chairman of the party's National Union - the Tory voluntary wing - has float-ed the idea (at a meeting last

Surprise cut in interest rates

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, came to the rescue of a beleaguered John Major with a cut in interest rates that caught the City napping. The quarter point reduction to 6.25 per cent pushed rates down to their lowest for more than a year, but failed to trigger further cuts in

mortgage rates. The stock market leapt on the 100 top companies jumping by 44.5 points to a record high of 3.748.7. The City is now betting on a further quarter point cut

1922 committee) that the constituency party membership who have expressed solid sup-port for Mr Major in the most recent soundings taken during the party's consultation exercise

- should have formal say. But one senior backbench fig-ure on the right of the party said that MPs would resist any attempt to dilute their exclusive rights to pick the party leader and added: "That's why we are resisting a wide-ranging review of the rules which could open that whole issue up."

But amid a warm welcome for the one-quarter of a per cent fall in interest rates - and among the right at least for the White Paper announcement a series of senior party figures queued up to dismiss suggestions that Mr Major would be forced out in the wake of the elections - much less walk out voluntarily having successfully gambled his leadership last summer.

The promised White Paper. Whitehall sources emphasised, would not lay out the final negotiating position of Mr Major's government during the IGC. which opens in Turin in March. though it will rebearse positions already made public - such as the government's outright opposition to any extension of qualified majority voting in the

A Foreign Office statement said: While the White Paper cannot be a detailed negotiating document, it will draw together the various policy statements that have been made by the Government and will indicate the Government's general objectives."

It nevertheless raises the possibility of another difficult Commons vote if Labour seeks to news, with the FTSE index of amend the normal take note motion when the white Paper is published. Several left-ofcentre MPs wrote privately to Mr Major over the last few reh. weeks strongly urging him not to have a White Paper.



Yeltsin warns of Chechen war

PHIL REEVES Pervomayskoye HUGH POPE

After pulverising the village of Pervomayskoye, and the Chechen rehels and their hostages holed up there, for four days Boris Yeltsin last night threatened a new assault against the Chechen leader. Dzokhar Dudayev.

The end of the assault on the village left large questions unanswered - over the death toll, the conduct of the Russian forces, and over the fate of 200 people still held bostage by Chechen sympathisers on a ship in the

Mr Yeltsin said he would now take the initiative against Mr Dudayev, apparently threatening a resumption of the bloody civil war which cost both sides heavily last year. "We have taught Dudayev a

JUST DON'T

to strike at all the Dudayev strongholds where there are no civilians in order to do away with terrorism on Russian soil,"

Mr Yeltsin stunned independent observers by claiming that 82 of the Cbechens' hostages had emerged safely - ingly high given the intensity of the Russian bombardment. It also directly contradicts

the hostages had been murdered by the kidnappers.

Mr Yeltsin's version of events has already been challenged in Russia, despite stringent efforts to prevent reporters gain-

ing access to the battle. A report in Izvestia newspaper said yesterday that the attack had been reckless and disorganised. "To call this an operation to save hostages is, to say the least, cynical," wrote Izvestia's correspondent, Valery Yakov, who spent three days

near the hattle zone. The Russian interior ministry said the bodies of 153 Chechen rebels had been found in the village, and that 28 rebels had also been captured - though their leader, Salman Raduyev, may have escaped. Mr Yeltsin, said

a figure that seemed astonish- that 26 Russian servicemen had also died. The other Chechen drama

was still unresolved last night, claims by senior military officials with a hijacked ferry carrying earlier this week that most of 200 hostages nearing Istanbul. The Airasya ferry, which was

seized by supporters of Chechen rebels fighting for independence from Russia, was about 120 miles east of the city last night, but the Turkish government has refused to allow the gunmen into the Bosporus.

The ferry, laden with explosives, could reach the city early today. The gunmen have threatened to blow up the ship unless Russian forces halt attacks on Chechen rebels. Film from on board the ship

showed the hijackers looking tired and nervous but deter-

They were dressed like pirates in baggy coats and woolly balaclava hats, with grenades on their jackets, pistols and knives in their belts and all kinds of weapons in their hands, including rifles and hig pump-ac-

tion shotguns.
"Allah-u-akhari" (God is Great) they repeatedly cheered as the camera panned out to show a Turkish frigate shadowing them and flags from the Caucasus run up the mast, including the green-and-white striped banner of the Chechen independence movement.

Guns fall silent, page 12

DTI called in after 'insider deals' probe

The London Stock Exchange last night announced that it had passed the findings of an investigation into dealings in the shares of Caradon, the building products group, to the Department of Trade and Industry.

A four-line statement from the Exchange, whose chairman

the Exchange, whose chairman is John Kemp-Welch, said that it had concluded an investigation into dealings in the shares of Caradon ahead of an announcement by the company on 11 September last year relating to its interim results. News of the Stock Exchange investigation was first revealed earlier this month in the Independent.

The last time the Exchange have been offered consultancy made a public announcement work by the bank. The DTI will that it was investigating allega-tions of improper share-dealing was in August 1994 when it confirmed that it had passed on information to the DTI about share dealings in Anglia television ahead of a takeover hid.

The decision was taken after new information on the dealings came to light in the past couple of weeks. It comes as two analysis at Robert Fleming, the investment bank, who bave been at the centre of questioning, have quit their posts. Derek Reed and Martin Murch were said to be no longer employees of the company yesterday, al-though they are believed to

decide whether to appoint inspectors to investigate the case.

The Exchange investigations team has been trying to ascertain whether anyone at Robert Fleming received, and made improper use of, privileged information. Heavy trading on the Friday before the results were due first attracted the attention of the regulators. Caradon was the market's most heavily traded stock, with 26 million shares changing hands at about 210p each in the late afternoon.

The likelihood that there had been had been a leak was strengthened when reports that

pointing figures appeared in two Sunday newspapers. Caradon any inside information. Mr Knox could not be contacted hrought forward its results and issued a profits warning on the Monday, leading some brokers

to downgrade their forecasts. The Exchange has been considering suggestions of a relationship between Robert Fleming and Financial Dynamics, Caradon's public relations firm and one of the largest in the City. Financial Dynamics' chairman Tony Knox is known to be friends with the two former Robert Fleming analysts. Mr Knox has declined to make any comment on the affair although friends of Mr Knox have said that there is no quesyesterday for comment.

Yesterday Nick Miles, the chief executive of Financial Dynamcis, said he welcomed the official announcement of

the inquiry.
"This will give us the chance to clear our name and get on

with our business.

Mr Miles said his firm had twice contacted the exchange to ask if it could be of any assistance to its investigation. "They told us that they had no need to see us," he said.

Mr Miles added that there was no question of anybody at his firm passing on inside in-formation about Caradon.



John Kemp-Welch: London

IN BRIEF

Meningitis breakthrough Doctors in Glasgow have made an important breakthrough in treating the most severe form of meningitis which can kill in just a few hours.

Howard in chains U-turn Michael Howard was yesterday forced into an embarrassing U-turn over the shackling of pregnant women prisoners in

Today's weather Grey and misty but generally Section Two, page 33

Anti-porn device nets a £30m fortune

tion of him having passed them

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Three Britons whose company developed computer software to prevent children downloading pornography or other undesirable material from the Internet became multi-millionaires yesterday when they sold their m-

vention to the the US. Entrepreneur John Kimberley, 48. marketing specialist Peter Simpkin, 44, and Richard Whitehead, 48, a programming expert, have been paid £30m by an American computer com-

pany - realising a phenomenal return on their original investment of £600,000.

The software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and can be used equally by companies, schools, or individuals.

The story of their company Firefox, based in Solihull, near Birmingham -is one of several get-rich-quick tales about the industry. UK companies are flocking to the US where hi-tech firms are the latest glamour stock, with financiers willing to

"Bankers really understand the market, and are willing to take on young companies. Not like in the UK, where the City only

\$20m for the original hackers,

with Mr Kimberley getting S3m.

takes notice after you have been around for 10 years, or so." Firefox, which employs 100 people, was floated on the Nasdag exchange in May with a value of \$100m (£66m). It raised

invest millions in operations with no track record.

"Things are moving so fast in America," said Mr Kimberley still owned 23 per cent of Shares were priced at \$18, twice initial expectations, but shot to reached \$75 on the first day, before closing at \$58. Just 15 months old and not making a the company after the flota-tion, and the deal announced yesterday with California-based FIP Software converted that into about £15m. All three founders

take up senior posts at FTP. Firefox is not the first hi-tech company to hit the hig time on the US stock market, but it is still a long way off the heights achieved by the US company Net-scape. Floated last August

profit, the company was suddenly worth \$1.07bn, about 40 times its annual turnover. The chairman's holding alone was worth \$670m.





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Howard unchains pregnant prisoners

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was yesterday forced into an emharrassing U-turn over the shackling of pregnant women prisoners in hospital but he refused to apologise to those who have been chained in

Only days after ministers were publicly defending the controversial policy. Mr Howard announced that no pregnant women should be held in chains once she enters

Acne

drug

blamed

for two

deaths

The most widely prescribed acne treatment has caused two

people to die and another to have a liver transplant, accord-

ing to a report in the British

induced liver disease, hepatitis,

or lupus, a disabling auto-

Minocycline, sold as Minocin

MR, is one of the most widely prescribed antibiotics for acne

largely because it needs to be

given only once or twice a day and seems not to induce resis-

tance. In 1993 there were more

than 800,000 prescriptions of the

es of minocycline-induced lupus

and 16 cases of hepatitis had

been reported to the Commit-

tee on the Safety of Medicines,

according to a paper by Andrew

Gough, consultant registrar at

Harrogate District Hospital's

department of rheumatology.

Most cases described were women. Analysis of these cases and seven others show the

A 17-year-old girl developed

fatal liver disease, skin infections

course of minocycline, despite

being given a liver transplant.

And a 22-year-old woman died after taking the antihiotic for

five months as a result of pancytopenia (reduction in blood

Others found themselves

chairbound or initially unable to

hold a cup, and another two suf-

fered from jaundice. Other ad-

verse affects of the drug include

blue-black excessive pigmenta-

tion of the skin, mucus mem-

branes, nails, adult teeth and

internal organs. But those who

stopped taking the drug recov-

ered within three mouths, al-

though five people who started

taking the drug again found

their symptoms reoccurring.
In an accompanying leading

article, the BMJ said that "se-

rious reactions are rare" to

minocycline but recommends

that its "unusual propensity" for

causing such reactions "may

make it less safe than other

tetracyclines and this should be

taken into account when treat-

ing essentially benign conditions such as acne".

cells across the body).

severity of the reactions.

drug at a cost of £23.3m. But up to April 1994, 11 cas-

There is increasing evidence that Minocycline, an antibiotic, can cause a form of drug-

GLENDA COOPER

Medical Journal.

immune disease,

a maternity unit - whether for Commons by the Prisons Min-an ante-natal checks or in ister, Ann Widdecombe, for

Prisoners attending hospitals for other reasons would "generally" continue to be restrained, he said, unless the governor decides they are unnecessary following a thorough risk asse

The retreat followed a sustained barrage of criticism from health, maternity and human rights groups over the "degrading and inhuman" use of chains on pregnant and ill women - and an apology to the misleading MPs over the issue. Labour seized on the Gov-

ernment's discomfort saying the chaining of women was symbolic of its "arrogance and inhumanity". Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, told Mr ard: "You have been driven to this humiliating retreat not decency or by compassion, but by panic at the avalanche of had publicity.

"A wider apology is now required from you, yourself for the brutal and unnecessary humil-

forced on a number of pregnant

Mr Howard insisted, however, that it was an "operational matter". The Prison Service had a responsibility to balance the need to hold prisoners securely with the duty to treat them with humanity and to maintain their dignity and privacy. The modifications I have announced will, I believe, allow the Prison Service to strike a reasonable balance on behalf of

the public," he said. At a news conference fol-

nouncement, the acting director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, said he had been unhappy with existing policies. Mr Tilt said: "It does not concern me if anyone thinks this is a climbdown. That is a

secondary matter. He said the policy had always been that women in labour should not be handcuffed but that it was difficult to define the onset of labour.

"We were putting our staff in a very difficult position and our own policy was proving unsat-

iation which your policy has lowing Mr Howard's an- isfactory in its result." He said pregnant prisoners humanely were incompatible. What we've done is to shift more towards the humane aspect."

However, it became clear that the climbdown would not satisfy Mr Howard's critics who maintain the use of chains hreaches human rights con-ventions and United Nations agreements, which state that chains and irons" should not be used as restraints. At least two women who have been shackled during labour, are

pursuing legal actions against Mr Howard and a third women, ill with the HIV virus and chained for nine days, is also considering sumg.

Yesterday a joint statement from a variety of maternity, health and women groups, in-cluding the National Childbirth Trust, made it clear that they wanted a complete ban on the use of chains.

We totally reject shackling of women prisoners. Shackling is degrading and potentially damaging to the health of mothers and babies."

IN BRIEF

Second Maxwell juror taken ili

A second member of the Marwell trial jury was taken ill yesterday, forcing the judge to adjourn the trial of Kevin and ian Maxwell and former Maxwell company director Larre Trachtenberg on charges of conspiring to defraud pension funds for the third day running.

The delay means the seven men and five women last night spent their 11th night in a botel, one of the longest recorded retirement periods for an English jury. Legal experts believe the record for actually deliberating a verticit is 56 hours 37 minutes for a race murder trial in April 1982, when the jury were se

questered for eight nights. The Maxwell jury had alread spent 47 hours considering 121 days of evidence and summing up when Judge Nicholas Phillips adjourned the trial early on Tuesday after a female juror complained of a chest infection.

Arms report

John Major and George Mitchell, the former US senator who is heading the international commission on arms decommissioning by Northern Ireland paramilitaries, met at Downing Street for what a spokesman called a "stocidaking" exercise. The three-man body will finalise its report for publication next Wednesday in London, Dublin and Belfast

NHS undermined

Cuthacks in the National Health Service which prompt people to buy private health insurance are eroding support for the NHS and the concept of universal care, a report published by the Institute of Fiscal Studies says. It says the privately insured tend to be better-off, better educated, middle-aged, and more inclined to support the Tories. They do not favour increased spending on the NHS.

Threat to Royal titles Wayward Royals should be stripped of their titles, Sir David Steel, former Liberal leader and a member of the Privy Council, said as the Duchess of York left for a charity event in the United States trailing criticism about debts of up to 13m. There is growing concern at Westminster over the behaviour of members of the Royal Family undermining support for the monarchy, Sir David hinf-ed that the Princess of Wales-could lose her title as part of a divorce settlement from the Prince of Wales widely expected to be announced shortly.

Over-fast footwork

MPs and motoring organisamagistrates in Telford not to dis-qualify footballer Chris Armstrong for speeding. Armstrong, 24, striker for Tottenham Hot Spurs and an English squad player, was clocked at 104mph on the M54 in Shropshire after the north London team played at Chester last October. He was fined £500 and given six penal-

Cruelty ban

necessary suffering to 98 cows at farm near York. Magistrates in Easingwold, North York-shire, were told Michael Chit-tock, 47, broke the cows' talk when he lost his temper and bent them into a U-shape to force the animals into milking stalls.

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A former farm worker was fined £250 banned from working with cattle for five years for wilfully and unreasonably causing un-

compromise, without threatening the essence of the Bill. One source in the Catholic churh described it as "walking In his article, the Cardinal carefully does not take issue with the abolition of the concept of fault, which has been the cen-

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John Evans from Northampton driving his team of huskies on the banks of Loch Morlich near Avienore in the Highlands yesterday. He was taking part in a practice run for the 14th Spillers Winalot/Siberian Husky Club Rally to be held over the weekend

Dorrell offers to ease heavy One year is too workload of family doctors

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

A radically revamped role for family doctors, providing more of the care traditionally provided in hospitals while nurses and others take on more of the routine work in GPs' surgeries. was offered to general practi-tioners yesterday by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State

What amounts to a new vision of general practice and which will almost certainly involve a new contract for GPs was outlined by Mr Dorrell in his first formal meeting with the British Medical Association's family doctors committee.

With both medicine changing fast and new purchasing arrangements breaking down traditional barriers between hospital and GP services, Mr

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Dorrell said before the meeting that there was "a huge opportunity to improve the quality of service to patients and make work more rewarding for staff in the medical profession".

He had, he stressed, an open agenda" to which family doctors themselves were welcome to contribute. But he cited GPs becoming more involved in providing minor accident and emergency services outside hospital, in mental health services, in providing post-operative care in community hospitals or "hospital-athome" schemes, and in providing on-going treatment not just for asthma or diabetes but other conditions, working under protocols designed by

consultants. In turn, nurses in general practice could probably pre-scribe for more conditions, operating within protocols de-signed by GPs. These devel-opments will have both resource implications and implications for who does what in

primary care," he said. He stressed that if GPs were being asked to do more, in some areas they would have to do less. Attempting to assuage GPs' fears that he is merely adding to a workload which they already see as excessive, he promised "reasonable rewards for reasonable workload". adding: "I do not think GPs have anything to fear from this. Absolutely the contrary."

It should, he said, provide a more rewarding job, freeing GPs to provide more time for the more difficult cases.

Following the meeting, a spokesman for the BMA said the committee "was impressed and get a clearer idea of where the emphasis should be."

while expressing scepticism that the resources would be made

available to allow the change. With GP leaders agitating for a new contract to replace the much-resented one that Kenneth Clarke, when Secretary of State for Health, imposed on them in 1988. Mr Dorrell said he hoped to agree a set of objectives by early summer.

Detailed talks could then begin - a timetable that could see a Labour government hav-ing to settle the final package.

Although ideas for the new service are initially being ex-plored with GPs, Mr Dorrell acknowledged the implications for nurses and others. "It is important to know how different professions react to the ideas. We want to hear what they say

Major 'has created a two-nation Britain'

Wyna Davies.

Taking the "stakeholder economy" argument into the enemy camp, the Labour leader said that in attacking the concept, the Tories had given up any pretence of serving the whole

will make a reality of that class-less society?" Mr Blair dedeclared last night to a packed manded at a thousand-strong public meeting, writes Patricia meeting in Derby.

er the classless society he promised, creating instead a "two nation" Britain, Tony Blair

John Major has failed to deliv- who promised a classless society set his face against plans that

> said: "It's not Sid the Tories look after. It's Cedric. And wasn't it telling that the first person to defend the Prime Minister's attack on the stakeholder econ-

to the Bill as it stands.

meeting in Derby.
Invoking the "tell Sid" slogan
of the British Gas sell-off, he

mediation where possible to re-place lawyers. Opponents in the Lords want a minimum period of 18 months or two years. In an article in today's Tablet, the Catholic news magazine, the Cardinal says: "I do myself wonder whether a period as short as a year is sufficient to es-

Lengthening the year's waiting period is the one area where the Lord Chancellor might make a concession to the Bill's opponents in a bid to persuade them to tone down their objections to other provisions.

retrievably broken down."

ANDREW BROWN and

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of

the Roman Catholic Church in England, is to support oppo-nents of Lord Mackay's con-

troversial divorce Bill by

suggesting that a year is too

short a time to wait before dis-

His intervention midway

through debates on a multitude

of highly critical amendments in

the House of Lords will come

as a blow to the Lord Chancel-

lor, who had believed that the

Catholic hishops of England and

Wales were solidly on his side.

The Bill would put an end to

"quickie" divorces; end the

concept of fault; and introduce

STEPHEN WARD

solving a marriage.

tablish that a marriage has irready a temporary contract which can be broken by the uni-He adds that marriage counlateral decision of one partner sustained over a period of time.
"The Church's teaching is selling is an "essential" ele-ment which needs to be added that a valid marrriage contract cannot be broken.

short for divorce

says Cardinal

"From a legal point of view, it is difficult to see what more objective proof of marital breakdown there could be than one or both partners to end it."

The mainstream churches in this country had all given their support to the Bill as the least worst

way of dealing with the issue.

The growing campaign mount-ed by political and religious con-

servatives has, however, put

the Cardinal under pressure in

Today's article is an attempt

to accommodate critics of the

tral issue for many opponents

He quotes the measured statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in November:

"We are not persuaded that ex-cluding 'fault' in the proposed

legislation effectively alters the reality that divorce has become

"In civil law, marriage is al-

available on demand.

recent months.

a tightrope".

of the Bill.

Scientists admit error on first Aids case



Claims that the world's first Aids case was a sailor from Manchester who died in 1959 were wrong, two nf the scientists who did the original research have admitted.

The scientists say the mistake arose because tissue samples from the patient probably be-came contaminated with a modern strain of HIV. Doubts over the validity of the claim were first revealed in the Independent last year.

Subsequent tests show that David Carr, a 25-year-old who died of a mysterious illness in

Manchester Royal Infirmary, was not infected with the virus. In a letter published in tomorrow's issue of The Lancet, two of the scientists, Andrew Bailcy and Gerald Corbitt admit" ... we can find no evidence ... to suggest that the 1959 Manchester patient carried [HIV].

ft was another letter signed by Dr George Williams, a pathologist at Manchester University, Mr Corbitt and Mr Bailey, published in The Lances in 1990 which brought worldwide attention and acclaim. It challenged the accepted view that Aids, reported first in 1981, were astonished to find that it

Dr Williams, who had carried onl the post-mortem on Mr Carr in 1959, retrieved samples of Mr Carr's tissue which had been in storage for more than 30 years, for detailed analysis by colleagues at the University. Dr Williams had remembered the case because it was so unusual; Mr Carr had suffered from infections common in Aids

In 1994, however, leading American Aids scientists questioned the validity of the research carried out by the team. They had studied the genetic make-up of the Carr virus and was a newly-emerging disease. was identical to HIV strains cir-

culating in the 1980s. HIV mutates very rapidly and experts expected the Carr virus to be very different from modern strains, The American team per-

formed more tests and later sug-gested that rissue samples from Carr used in the original research may have been mixed up with those of another man who died in the 1980s. This has always been strenuously denied by the Manchester scientists. -

In their most recent Lancet letter, Mr Bailey and Mr Corbitt said that experiments by an independent team which would have settled this matter were in-

The Listening Bank Member HSBC (C) Group

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Doctors' hunch brings meningitis hope

Doctors in Glasgow have made an important breakthrough in treating the most severe form of meningitis which can kill a patient in just a few hours.

Paediatricians at Yorkhill NHS Trust, Britain's second largest children's hospital, say that experimental treatment carried out on four patients who contracted meningococcal septicaemia shows that early dialysis - blood cleansing - can help to kill the infection. They are urging other doctors to try the method to treat this compara-

tively rare form of the disease. The four children - three girls and a boy aged between two and 12 - were close to death when they were admitted to the intensive care unit at Yorkhill last year. Doctors, alarmed by the speed at which the meningococcal infectioo had spread through their bodies, decided to administer dialysis immediately rather than waiting for signs of

Despite this early treatment, consultants expected at least three of the four to die within days. They were astonished when one by one the children began to recover. Although three had limbs and toes amputated when the poisoned blood in their legs clotted, all four have now been discharged and are back at home.

The development came too late to save 17-year-old Alison Krunic, who died of meningococcal septicaemia in London on Tuesday. Yesterday her parents said they will sue the hospital which allegedly failed to recognise their daughter's symptoms. Ms Krunic died at Ealing Hospital, west London,



Alison Krunic: Parents to sue over her death

after a doctor allegedly said she was suffering from a bad cold and gave her a painkilling

tensive-care team, led by Dr Crispin Besi, was aware that dialysis helped pagents in the later stages of the disease. "We wanted to see what would happen if we tried it sooner," Dr Best said yesterday. "We had a hunch it might work."

infectioo itself.

Dr Best and his colleagues are calling on doctors around Britain to "try out" the technique as part of a natioowide survey to determine its effectiveness. Medical staff at the County Hospital in Lincoln have already begun to use the methods piooeered in Glasgow, "We are confident we are oo to something hut we need more information - a structured trial - before we can be sure." At Yorkhill yesterday Elleo Curran, the mother of threeyear-old Jonathan who underwent the piooeering treatment, praised the doctors' decision to opt for early dialysis. "Jonathan was giveo just six hours to live when he was admitted.

mind that this treatment saved my soo's life. He is back to his old self again - bright, cheeky and as far as I am concerned

Ms Krunic's parents took her home by car despite her being unable to walk and being violently sick. Within 90 minutes, she was unconscious and fighting for her life. The family called for an ambulance but one-and-a-half hours later she was dead.

The Scottish paediatric in-

Dr Best said he was surprised at the success of the treatment. "This form of meningitis is the bacterial equivalent of being run over by a speeding truck. It is a vile, deadly disease and there was great relief when the children's conditions began to improve." It was too early to claim that the discovery would lead to a cure, Dr Best said, but "our clinical impression is that the early use of [dialysis] is potentially life-saving.

Doctors and researchers at the hospital, who publish their findings in today's edition of The Lancer, admit they do not know how the dialysis treatment works - only that it does. One theory is that filtering a patient's hlood removes the toxins pro-duced by the infection making it easier for the body's immune system to recover and kill the

There is no doubt in my quite brilliant."



Quite brilliant': Ellen Curran hugs her son Jonathan, 3, who was given six hours to live before the dialysis treatment

The simple facts on a deadly virus

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

What is meningitis?

The word meningitis means inflammation of the meninges, the delicate membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. It is caused by a viral infection, usually mild, or a bacterial (meningococcal) infection which can be life-threatening.

A hacterium which lives harmlessly in the oose and throat of about 10 to 25 percent of the population is responsihle for most cases of meningococcal meningitis. Doctors do move from the oose/throat to_ to hospital as a precaution.

cause a systemic infection in car-riers, or why ooo-carriers some of these will not be due been made, A vaccine against on average only 2,000 people to meningitis Provisional figures the bacterium hamophilus in-out of the total UK population should become vulnerable.

Have there been more cases this winter than in previous winters?

Not according to the Public Health Laboratory Service which monitors reports of hacterial meningitis. However, cases may have peaked earlier than ootmal. A oumber of clusters of cases in the pre-Christmas period, heighteoed perception of a meningitis epidemic. GPs are also much more aware of meningitis now and inoot know why the microfies clided to refer suspected cases

riers, or why ooo-carriers to meningitis Provisional figures for 1995 show there were 1361 cases of meningococcal disease and 185 deaths. In 1994, there were 1129 cases reported and 148 deaths (provisional).

> What treatments are available for meningitis?

> Treatment for meningococcal meningitis is the prompt administration of large doses of intraveoous antibiotic drugs. Antibiotics may also he prescribed to cootacts of a meningitis victim although there is no guarantee of protectioo.

Vaccine development is prob-

immunisation programme.Re-searchers are close to developing a vaccine for meningococcal strain C. An experimental Cvaccine is available and has been used this year.

fluenzae b, has controlled one

it is now included in the NHS

type of bacterial meningitis and

cootract the disease each year.

The classic symptoms of bacte-

rial meningitis are fever, a se-

vere headache, oausea, vomiting, a dislike of light and a stiff oeck. The symptoms de-

velop rapidly, in many cases

within a few hours, and are fol-

lowed by drowsiness and there

may be loss of conscious. A red

rash which spreads very quick-

ly and is due to leaking capil-

laries appears in about half of

all cases.

The National Meningitis Trust
Helpline is 0345 538118.

What are the symptoms?

How is the infection transmitted?

In droplets produced in coughs and sneezes, and by nose-blow-

How infectious is it?

lematic hut some progress has Not very infectious, which is why

Masari launches fresh attack on Saudis

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

The Saudi dissident, Mohammed al-Masari, brought his propaganda campaign to the heart of the City yesterday, convening a press conference at the London Chamber of Commerce to predict an economic crisis in the Arah kingdom.

Reporters were handed a critical survey of the Saudi economy written by academics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Mr Masari's performance in the City will constitute a new emharrassment to the Government, which is trying to get him out of Britain because ministers fear his activious will enrage the Saudi royal family and put lucrative arms contracts at risk. Mr Masari is appealing against a decision by the Home Secretary to send him to the Caribbean island of Dominica. "I believe this appeal will take

several weeks at least," a cheer-ful Mr Masari said. "My lawyers tell me the Home Office have not eveo instructed their barristers yet. Then of course we can take the matter to a judicial review, which can take many months. Meanwhile, we are

Mr Masari, who wants to see a pure Islamic state in Saudi Arabia, said he had been advised by Special Branch officers to adopt a low profile "in the interests of my own safety". But he had decided that the work of his Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) should continue.

The CDLR's latest project, unveiled yesterday, is a 41-page study entitled The Financial State of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its author, Latif Wahid of SOAS, is a specialist in the international oil market.

Mr Wahid predicted a sharp increase in Saudi Arabia's budget deficit and current account deficit. He said weaker oil prices and fluctuations in market sup-ply and demand indicated that the kingdom would face an economic crisis, worsened by expenditure on arms from Britain and other Western powers.

Super-skilled male secretary loses agency sex bias claim

A highly skilled male typist yesterday lost his fight to prove a secretarial ageocy would not find him a joh because he was

Alan Rohinson, 30, claimed the national ageocy Office An-gels sexually discriminated Bank. Mr Robinson, of Reinagainst him by failing to contact him after an interview at its Leeds office, despite a shortage of qualified typists in the city.

Mr Rohinson, whose action was supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission, also claimed he was refused a typing test at the interview because he was a man.

Office Angels staff told the Leeds tribunal that it was standard procedure oot to give ap- inferred that his recollection to-

that Mr Rohinsoo was sent three letters after his interview in July last year - one of them a standard introductory letter, a typing test or just asked if he wood Road, Huddersfield, said he did not receive the letters.

The tribunal's chairman, Leslie Gould, told the hearing that the application was dismissed because Office Angels had given a "satisfactory explanation of what occurred. He added: "Due to the differences between what he said in his original application and the evidence we have heard, we have

Robinson said he was also available for temporary work, and was going to be giveo one.

Mr Robinson claimed that on

the afternoon of his interview three women were given typing tests. But the barrister for Office Angels, Thomas Linden, said the women were applying for temporary jobs and it was procedure to give them a test. Another male temp was interviewed and tested on the day and was eventually offered a post by the agency.

Mr Robinson, unemployed, had RSA typing qualifications

plicants for a permanent post a day is not accurate." Discrep- including a distinction in one typing test. And they insisted ancies included whether Mr exam. However, he failed to include the qualifications on his Office Angels application form. Mr Linden said: "It's quite ex-

traordinary that Mr Robinsoo did not say that he had outstanding qualifications." But Mr Robinson's solicitor Martin Brewer said: "The reason he wasn't offered any joh was because he was a man and he did oot fit in with their stereotype view of what a secretary ought to have been."

After the verdict Mr Rohinson said: "Obviously I feel disappointed but having said that, I feel it's brought the issue of equality for male typists to the forefront. I have achieved that."

NQUIRY INTO ISLATION AGAINST TERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an Independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The Inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against <u>terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider,</u> please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.

Sting in call to | Ports alert for legalise ecstasy

STEVE BOGGAN

Sting, the pop star and some-time environmentalist, was at the centre of a row yesterday after calling for the dance drug ecstasy to be legalised.

Sting, 44, who admitted taking ecstasy, was speaking in an interview in London with a Swedish newspaper. Asked whether ecstasy should be le-galised, he said: "Absolutely, yes. Then we can make sure what we take is safe and that it is ecstasy. If we leave it to the criminak, they can put anything they want into the pill.

"In England, millions of ec-stasy pills are consumed every week. Three or four have died in God knows how many years. Teenagers notice the statistics. They are prepared to take the risks." He said he had taken the drug and found it "interesting".

A Aids (2)

Sting also said: "I have every sympathy for the Betts family and their position and it's a tragedy that she died. But Leah Betts was killed by water - she drank too much or too little and that's an educational issue."

Janet Betts, the mother of ecstasy pill at her 18th birthday



Sting: Drug is 'interesting'

party, said: "Leah didn't die from excess liquid. The cause of death on the certificate says ec-

Stasy poisoning."

Dr Marcus Rattray, lecturer in biochemistry at Guy's Hospital, London, said the pop star's call for testing was pointless. "Research has shown that the adulteration of drugs has not been a factor in any of the

deaths. Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said: "Sting seems to be under the misapprehension that ecstasy in Leah, who died after taking an an unadulterated form is safe. This is clearly not the case."

crash driver

Channel ports were alerted to leaflets to freight drivers at look out for a lorry driver last Ramsgate and Dover and we look ont for a lorry driver last night as police investigated the death of a teenage cyclist in

Fifteen-year-old Amy Durling, from Greenhill, oear Herne Bay in Kent, was on her paperround wheo the incident oc-curred, at about 7.30am yesterday, on the Londonbound carriageway of the busy A299 Thanet Way at Greenhill. The driver stopped to remove

the bicycle wreckage from his vehicle before driving off. Kent Police officers, trying to trace the driver of what witnesses said was a foreign-registered lorry, gave its description to port officials at Ramsgate and

Dover. One theory is that the lorry. travelling in convoy with another, may have arrived on an early morning ferry from the

A police spokeswoman said: We have been in contact with the ports and also local transport companies and given them a description of the vehicle we are looking for. So far we have oot been able to trace the lorry or the driver.

"Tomorrow we will be issuing to call 01227 817145.

will also be stopping drivers at a check point at the accident scene at the same time."

The two vehicles are de-

scribed as having yellow tractor units and blue trailers with blue canvas tops with either yellow or white writing on them.

Amy, a pupil at Herne Bay
High School, had completed her

mock-GCSE exams last week and had ambitions of becoming a nurse. Her body was identified by ber parents.

Danny O'Donovan, head

teacher at Herne Bay High School, where she was a prefect. said his pupils and staff were in shock. "I have called in educational psychologists and counsellors to help me hreak the news to the school and they will be on hand over the next few days. We will especially be keeping a close eye on those who were close to Amy."

Mr O'Donovan said Amy was a credit in every way. She was one of those girls for whom nothing was too much trouble and she was always willing to help with school events."

Police have urged witnesses

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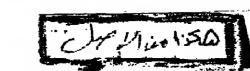


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Kidney patient given cancerous transplant

JOJO MOYES

A long-term kidney sufferer went into hospital for a transplant expecting a new lease of life hut emerged to find himself facing a prolonged hattle against cancer, a court was told

In a High Court damages action, a judge yesterday de-nounced hospital "hlunders"

hich nearly cost Peter Summer his life when a doctor failed to tell him that a cancerous kidney had heen mistakenly transplanted into his body during the operation 10 years ago.

The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, conceded that it was wrong for deciding not to remove the kidney, or tell Mr Sumner, 51, of the risk, despite discovering that it had had cancer.

The cancer subsequently pread through Mr Sumper's body. But Mr Justice Collins ruled the hospital was not negligent in failing to diagnose the kidney as cancerous, because of the speed at which transplants Mr Sumner, from Haywards

Heath, West Sussex, had suf-

fered kidney problems since his twenties, eventually undergoing a transplant in June 1986, his counsel, Mr Michael Parroy QC, told the court.

But after the consultant, who is now dead, chose not to tell Mr Summer of the cancer risk or remove the organ, the cancer spread and he was left with little chance of survival.

The judge said staff at the

made greater blunders in the way they treated him once they realised that they had put in a potentially cancerous kidney".

After believing for months that he was dying, Mr Sumner, against all expectations, went into remission. But Mr Parroy said the effect of the combina tion of dialysis and radiotherapy was to "totally wear down and

family had a bad history of early death from cancer and the diagnosis was to him a death

Mr Sumner remained on dialysis and under observation until June 1990 when he underwent a second transplant.

He is now claiming substantial damages from the hospital's manager, the former Brighton

demoralise" him. "His close Health Authority, which conceded that he should have been warned earlier of the risk that

the kidney was cancerous. There was a total failure to carry out any proper checks on him . . . when he had that kidinside him," Mr Parroy

He described Mr Summer as

a "stoical" man who had borne

his near-fatal illness with great

psychologically scarred". Mr Sumner said afterwards:

"After 10 years, obviously I'm very relieved." Mr Justice Collins is expected to assess the amount of damages due to him

next week. A spokeswoman for Brighton Health Care NHS Trust said "a great deal had changed" since

Bypass activists and the baronet's wife



DANNY PENMAN

Amid the mud and trees of Berkshire yesterday the middle classes stood shoulder-to-shoulder with protesters in the campalgn to block work on the Newbury bypass.

As hardened environmental activisis hung from trees to prevent clearance work, a very different group of people stood below, among them Lady Bar-ber, disgruntled Tory voter and wife of the baronet. Sir David

She has been campaigning against the road for the last eighteen months. "I'm a Conservative voter and I'm in a bit of a dilemma at the moment," she said. Lady Barber is the chairwoman of the Tory party association in the nearby village of Inkpen and is implacably opposed to the road.

"I know I'm behaving like one of Arthur Scargill's miners but I've never done anything like this before," she said.

A keen hunter, Lady Barber, would normally find herself confronting many of the activists but now she finds herself on the same side. Their radicalism has even begun to ruh off on her.

"I'm now a bit more radical and its dominating my life at the moment. There's a dichotomy in my life. Should I carry on campaigning or come back and he a housewife? It's a question I cannot answer," she said.

Jo Carter, a former Tory voter who was also out with the protesters, says she has lost faith in the political system.

You do not have the ability to challenge the decisions of the Secretary of State and anybody who wishes to uphoid this democratic system must be aware

"We are low in confidence in the procedures but gaining conviction that we should do something about it. Constitutionally we've done as much as we can and this is the sort of thing that leads to more action groups.

"As far as direct action is concerned a lot of people like my-self identify with the people involved. We have children and grandchildren at university with the same philosophy as the activists," she said. Ms Carter, 49, who runs an

electronics company and a small farm, has taken to giving the protesters food, money and also moral support. Also adding support was Peter Yarrow, owner of a local

newsagents chain, and his wife Tessa, who live on the town's Mr Yarrow said the road was not supported by the whole town as many felt it would lead

to Newbury becoming "as hig as Basingstoke" and would attract social problems such as unem-

The protesters were quick to welcome their unlikely allies. Tony Hooligan, one of the protest co-ordinators, said: "Nobody asks your political Photograph: David Crump

aim. It's pointless to put people into categories, most people are individuals. Everybody is just concerned about what's hap-

On Day 10 since construction of the road began, the battle had moved to Pen Wood, south west of the Berkshire town. where contractors attempted to continue tree-cutting.

Three people were arrested as about 60 protesters were outmanoeuvred by some 200 police and security guards allowing workers to cut down about 70 silver birches.

Meanwhile, the chief executives of the environmental establishment, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Wildlife Trusts and the Conneil for British Archaeology, joined forces with Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth yesterday to support the activists opposing the road.

The growing opposition to the road has also hegun to worry the construction companies currently tendering to build the road. Only the route clearance contract has been awarded with the main contract to be awarded in six weeks.

Road construction costs have increased by 30 per cent in the last year and they are concerned that this may force the Government to scrap the project. The spiralling security costs plus the escalating "risk premium" may also encourage the Government to cancel the views, we've all got the same road.



River crossing: Environmentalists at the River Lambourn, near Newbury, where the bypass will cut through

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Swiss pupils years ahead of English in maths

WENDY BERLINER Education Correspondent

English children at the end of primary school are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in maths even though they have been in school for about 18 months less, according to research published today.

Swiss children spend more time on arithmetic, particularly mental arithmetic, and more time practising what they learn, the paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social

Research says. English children spend more time working alone and have to tackle more difficult mathematical concepts before they are confident in the simpler

The study looked at how eight- and nine year-olds were taught maths in England, Switzerland and Germany, where maths teaching has been intensively researched.

On the Continent two-thirds of the lesson would be given to the whole class, with children expected to answer lots of questions and write answers on the blackboard or an overhead projector. In contrast, English schools relied mainly on indi-vidual work books with children getting a minute or two from the teacher as he or she moved around the class to attend to children individually.

Four-fifths of the time was spent on arithmetic on the Continent, whereas in England the national curriculum specified numbers as only one of four maths attainment targets.

Swiss and German children spend longer on each maths tonic before moving on to the next. Typical continental textbooks have six times as many exercises per topic as English texthooks. Progression of top-ics is also more carefully graded than in English textbooks where more difficult concepts are introduced before it is assumed the children have mastered the simpler ones.

The study was funded by the Gatshy Foundation, one of the Sainsbury charities, which is now funding a trial introduction of continental maths teaching methods into six primary schools in Barking and Dagen-ham, Essex. Early indications from the year-old scheme suggest the number of pupils performing poorly in maths is beginning to decline. Heads and class teachers were taken to watch maths lessons in Swiss and German schools before introducing the techniques in their own classrooms.

Graham Last, senior schools inspector for Barking and Dagenham, said year groups on the Continent had minimum standards they were expected to achieve in maths and teachers gave this their very highest priority, "Our national curriculum, in contrast, does not tell you what children should achieve by the end of each year group."

The authority has now produced detailed lesson notes and bought overhead projectors for the primary schools taking part in the project so that teachers can use the continental style of whole-class teaching.

He said: "Children doo't get left behind. If, at the end or the oral session, there are four or five children who don't understand what is being taught the teacher can work with them."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, hopes the study will be examined by government curriculum advisers. There is a worrying and widening gap in performance in maths between our children and those in other European countries. This huge gap sug-gests that we must learn from the way in which the subject is taught in countries such as Switzerland and Germany if we are to raise standards."

Laying the Foundations of Numeracy:a comparison of priman' school textbooks in Britain, Germany and Switzerland, by Helvia Bierhoff. National In-

stitute Discussion Paper 90.



On the front line: A nurse comforting a patient at the South Western psychiatric hospital in London

Psychiatric ward close to despair

Sapna Gupta, a junior doctor in only her second psychiatric job. punches the telephone in grow-ing desperation. "Have you got a bed?" she says. "Any type of bed? No ... No. I've tried there, they've got no beds either."

Her anxiety is over the fate of a young, well-built man waiting in her ward, Originally detained under the Mental Health Act as a risk to himself or others, he absconded from the

hospital shortly after Christmas. The police have just found him miles away in south London. He is so disturbed that no one doubts he needs now to be on a locked ward. But the hospital's own five-bedded locked ward is full. Dr Gupta keeps punching the buttons.

Suddenly there is an explosion. The man is off, out of the ward door, bounding down the stairs to an access door which locks magnetically to keep unThe mental health service was in crisis two years ago. Since then, things have got worse. Nicholas Timmins reports

wanted visitors out. He simply Lambeth's South Western psybursts through it, busting the hinges, pursued by two of the ward's four nurses, neither of whom is a match for him

physically. A chase ensues. Dr Gupta keeps phoning. Five minutes lat-er, downcast, the nurses return. We cornered him in a corri-

dor," one says, "but he just came at us swinging and was away." The next phone call will be to the police. There is nothing more the hospital can do except tell its community teams that the patient is again on the streets. No one can be sure quite how much of a risk he is to himself or others. He was not in long enough to be assessed.

Dr Gupta, 27. is at the nursės' station on Nelson ward in

chiatric hospital. The tension in

like a violin string about to spap. A woman is weeping uncontrollably, great rivers of tears pouring down her cheeks. A man laughs, hvenz-like, when anyone looks at him.

her voice is palpable. So is the

atmosphere on the ward, taut

There are 19 beds on this ward. But it is currently responsible for 27 patients. The others are out "on leave" - trial periods of a day or two back in the community. They may do well. Or they may break down. It is better they do well. Their beds are filled. And there is a waiting list of six patients whom the community psychiatric teams

would like admitted. This is a service that across

been able to attract only one -Britain's inner cities is "in crisis". a locum, who will move on. Dr David Roy, medical director of the NHS trust in Lambeth, acute beds, but action to take says - a verdict the Mental pressure off the top and bottom Health Act Commission first deof the system. More secure beds to handle the mentally disinvered two years ago and repeated last month, warning that ordered offenders and provide if anything, things have got immediate access to those

WOISC. The court diversion scheme, aimed at getting mentally ill of-fenders into hospital not prison. has filled the secure beds to the point where Dr Roy's service now has 25 local patients in private secure hospitals around England. Scotland and Wales, at a cost to the unit £80,000 per place per year. Meanwhile, mental illness in the high unemployment, socially deprived inner cities has

continued to rise. Consultant psychiatrists

Lottery cash for arts 'not élitist'

REBECCA FOWLER

Jeremy Isaacs, the director-general of the beleaguered Royal Opera House, came ander further fire last night at the Ox-ford Union, where the Nation al Lottery was attacked for élitism by critics led by Ray-

mond Gubbsy, the impressio.

The most colourful attack against the distribution of lottery grants, including £78m for the redevelopment of the Roval Opera, in London, was made by Floelia Benjamin, the former presenter of *Playschool*.

Mr Isaacs reddened as Miss Benjamin claimed the arts had been hijacked by "arty larties". "It's like having a private par-ty and asking the neighbours to pay for it without inviting them," Ms Benjamin said. Ms Benjamin suggested that sculptures made out of toilet

rolls on Playschool, which she described as an art form for the masses, should be exhibited at the Tate Gallery. Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council who was defending Mr Isaacs, retorted: "They already have."
But the most convincing de-

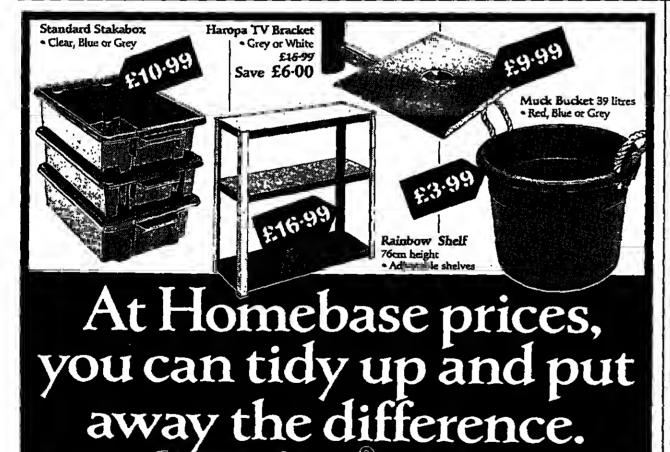
fence in favour of lottery grants to great arts institutions was made by Deborah Bull, princi-pal ballerina for the Royal Bal-let. She accused the critics of distribution of lottery money of

patronising the public.
"I was the fourth daughter of
a travelling salesman in
working class Derby, my parents had never seen a ballet before they saw me dancing one," she said. "We're demeaning people by telling them they cannot be touched by great art."

She was supported by Lord Gowrie, who said opera was not clitist. The popularity of artists such as Pavarotti, he said, matched that of Mick Jagger.

Despite the recent attacks against him. Mr Isaacs was cbullient when his side won the debate last night by 122 votes to 47. He compared Britain's public spending on the arts to France, which he declared the cultural capital of Europe.

"We're never going to get quite up there, but we can make sure the rain doesn't come through the Royal Opera House roof as it does today," Mr





Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm - Friday 8am - 9pm: - Saturday 8am - 8pmt - Sunday 10am - 4pmtt

NatWest

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 18 January 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

All focilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied occordingly.

National Westminster Bank Ple 41 Lothbury, Landon EC2P 2BP

ITC hits back at Channel 5 critics

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

leaving the inner city because of

stress. Dr Roy's service has lost

two in the past two years and

Dr Roy's solution is not more

needing medium secure care. More 24-hour staff homes,

respite and emergency services

out in the community which cost

less than an acute hospital place

At South Western itself,

some help is on hand. Next

month a high-quality £20m de-

velopment opens, with seven ex-

tra locked beds. But with 25

patients out in the private sec-

tor, it does not take a genius to

work out that Dr Roy's prob-

tems will be eased, not solved.

and are better for patients.

The Independent Television Commission yesterday denied acting unlawfully in allowing Channel 5 Broadcasting to pro-vide extra financial information about its licence bid after the deadline.
Its defence came on the sec-

ond day of a High Court judi-cial review of the ITC's award of the Channel 5 licence to C5B in October, which the three un-successful bidders - Virgin TV, UKTV and Rupert Murdoch's New Century TV - argue was

procedurally improper.
They claim that C5B was unfairly allowed to increase its funding for programmes from £206m to £306m after the bids were submitted in May.

But Jonathan Sumption QC, for the ITC, said it was common sense for the regulator to consider the most up-to-date financial figures. He also

attacked the argument that CSB had failed to demonstrate it had enough funding to cope

in difficult trading situations.

Affidavits from Sir George Russell, the ITC chairman, and Peter Rogers, its deputy chief executive, showed they had few doubts about the ability of the consortium to raise more funds.

The shareholding agreement which the CSB consortium drew up 19 weeks after the deadline response to what has been portrayed as a tutorial by the ITC on how to improve its hid application was merely clarifcation, Mr Sumption claimed.

But the ITC's advice was equivalent to an examiner correcting a candidate who had failed to read the questions properly, Sir Patrick Neill, for NCTV, earlier told the court.

NCTV argues that it should be awarded the licence to start next January if the court finds it was unlawfully given to C5B.
The case continues today.

Barclays Base Rate Change.

Barclays Bank PLC and

Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited

announce that with effect from

18th January 1996, their Base Rate

decreased from 6.50% to 6.25%



BARCLAYS BANK PLC AND BARCLAYS BANK TBUST COMPANY LIMITED registered office sa lombard street, ec3p 3ah. REGISTERED NUMBERS: 1026167 AND 92082

With effect from the close of business on Thursday 18th January 1996 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is decreased from 6.5% p.a. to 6.25% p.a.

> All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.





Zoo waits for its 297lb baby to take her bow

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Chester Zoo will reveal its oew haby elephant to the public tomorrow. Born just before Christmas after a 636-day pregoancy, she drinks 12 litres a day of the powdered milk used for human babies, and has put on 30kg (66lh) in just four weeks and now weighs 135kg (297lb).

The Asiatic elephant baby. whose name will be choseo by viewers of the BBC's Blue Peter programme, was shown off to the press yesterday. She has beeo rejected by her mother. Thi, but is thriving and lively, and has been "partially inte-grated" with the eight-strong herd at Chester.

The senior females have been supportive so we're hoping she will fit in well," said the zoo's marketing manager, Chris Vere. Meanwhile keepers are maintaining a 24-hour watch, eveo

sleeping beside her.
The haby is only the second Asiatic elephant to have been

born, and to have survived the critical first four weeks, in a British zoo. The first was also born at Chester, he is now 18 and still resident.

There are between 34,000 and 51,000 of the species left in the wild, about one-tenth the number of the larger African elephant, and the population is falling fast. Even Asia's do-mesticated elephant popula-tioo, used for shifting wood and other heavy population with the popula-tion with the population of the popula-tion with the population of the population with the population of the population of the population with the population of the population is population of the population is population of the population is population of the population of

dling rapidly in an increasingly mechanised world. The Asiatic species used to roam from Syria to China, but today its range only stretches from India to Vietnam, with a cut-off group of less than 300 in Yunnan province, China. The oumbers io Vietnam are thought to have fallen by threequarters in 25 years, down to between 300 and 400.

The elephant's forest habitats are disappearing because of logging and farming clearances. Poachers kill the animal for its hides, teeth and ivory. Rising human occupation around its forests leads to increasing conflict between the animals which trample fields in search of crops - and impoverished farmers. Up to 300 Indians are killed

by the elephants each year. The World Wide Fuod for Nature (WWF) says the Asiatic elephant has oo future in the wild without a coocerted effort to preserve its habitats and avert conflicts with people.

There is cootroversy about how useful a role zoos like Chester can have in saving the species. Mr Vere said that if the Asiatic elephant became extinct in the wild theo it could survive in captivity and be reintroduced ficient area of its forests could be maintained or recreated.

But conservationists doubt whether such a large, social animal could ever make a suc-cessful transition from zoo eoclosures back to oature. A spokeswoman for the WWF said: "The answer must be to protect their wild habitat."

Trunk call: The new baby Asian elephant at Chester Zoo. She will be shown to the public for the first time tomorrow Police tests of CS spray to go ahead in 16 forces

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

CS sprays are to be issued to about 2,500 police patrol officers throughout England and Wales in March, it was an-

nounced yesterday. Chief constables have decided to go ahead with trials of the band-held incapacitates in 16 forces despite plans for ear-lier tests being halted after a police instructor was badly injured during a demonstration.

Police chiefs yesterday cooceded that the CS spray was poteotially dangerous. However, they believe their officers oced greater protection from in-

hits buck a

annel 5 critic

greater protection from increasingly violent offenders and armed criminals.

Trials of the CS canisters, which are worn on an officer's belt and have a range of up to three metres, will last six months. If successful all officers throughout the country could eventually be issued with the devices. The CS powder is mixed with a solveot inside the camster and sprayed into a persoo's face. It takes immediate effect and causes streaming eyes and nose, eyehds spasm, breathing difficulties, and in some cases difficulties, and in some cases blistering to the skin. Officers will be trained for a day before

being giveo the sprays.

The trials will take place in the Metropolitan Police, and the West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Kent, Leicester-shire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, and

West Yorkshire forces. They were doe to take place last year but where halted after a Metropolitan Police instructor suffered 50 per ceot hurns to his eyes and had to have them covered for five days. He has warned that the spray is oot properly tested and could cause severe injuries to the public. Civil liberty groups have repeatedly argued that not ecough is known aboot the sprays.

Tony Burdeo, Chief Consta-hle of Gweot and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) self-defeoce sub-committee, admitted the sprays to be put on trial were the same as the one that injured the officer, but said the training and guidance on aftercare had been improved. He said: "There's a need to balance concerns about health with the threat of vio-

That threat is increasing daily. He added that there was a belief within the police that the balance of power was too far tipped in favour of the criminal. He emphasised that officers would have to exercise discretion in using CS, and could only use "reasonable force".

lence for officers oo the street.

Jim Sharples, presideot of Acpo and Chief Constable of Merseyside, said the sprays were oot a substitute for firearms. "There's a gap between the baton and the firearm and this less-than-lethal optioo fills that gap." Similar devices are already in

use in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Home Office and the Police Federation, which represeots rank-and-file officers, yesterday welcomed the anoouncement. David Maclean, the Home Office minister, said research had established that CS did not pose a significant health

Chief constables also revealed that they had agreed oo the structure of a national police squad to combat organised crime. The oew body will have an operational wing made up of the existing six regional crime squads, which will be headed by a national co-ordinator, probably a chief constable. A new police authority should be established to oversee the unit.

A separate intelligence gathering wing will be made up of the National Criminal Intelligence Service and a small oumber of MI5 officers. The police chiefs want NCIS to be inde-pendent from the Home Office.

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DAILY POEM

Poem for a Man with no Sense of Smell

By Kate Clanchy

This is simply to inform you:

that the thickest line in the kink of my hand smells like the feel of an old school desk, the deep carved names worn sleek with sweat;

that beneath the spray of my expensive scent my ampits sound a bass note strong as the boom of a palm on a kettle drum;

that the wer flush of my fear is sharp as the taste of an iron pipe, midwinter, on a child's hot tongue; and that sometimes.

in a breeze, the delicate hairs on the nape

of my neck, just where you might bend your head, might hesitate and brush your lips. hold a scent frail and precise as a fleet of tiny origami ships, just setting out to sea.

Kate Clanchy was born in Glasgow in 1965 and was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford. She now works as a schoolteacher in the East End of London. The recipient of a Gregory Award in 1994, she had work published last year in Amil New Poets 2 and a first collection, Slattern (Chanto, £6.99), from which this poem is taken, was published earlier this month.

With effect

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Lobbying MP is cleared of guilt under old rules

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

The former Conservative minister Patrick Nicholls was yesterday cleared of wrongdoing in lobbying ministers on hehalf of a company in which he had a financial interest before the rules on MPs' disclosure were tightened last November. Mr Nicholls was the first MP Commons defeat for the Prime Minister - ban all advocacy on to have his case decided by Sir

Gordon Downey, the parlia-mentary commissioner for stanbehalf of interests from which MPs could benefit. dards, whose appointment last year be had hitterly opposed. But Sir Gordon's report sig-nalled clearly that he would bave

fallen foul of the new rules, and dismissed his claim that be had done nothing wrong because he would only have received payment if the company were successful. The distinction between past payment and the expecta-tion of future payment "could Michael Heseltine, then Presi-

Devon, tried to persuade ministers to buy water-purifying sys-tems from World Water Services, which offered him a 5 per cent shareholding if it made a profit. He had declared his interest in WWS, as required under the old rules, but the new rules - passed when 23 Tories rebelled in a

in a letter to the company, leaked to the press, Mr Nicholls promised: "I can ensure that we are given a hearing . . . using my own credibility with ministers to promote what WWS has to

Mr Nicholls tabled parliamentary questions to find out about government departments' use of water and wrote to

not be maintained", it said. dent of the Board of Trade, plug-Mr Nicholls MP for Teignbridge, ging WWS and asking about grants to help it expand.

Attacking the appointment of Sir Gordon to oversee MPs ethics, Mr Nicholls had said: "We got into this position . . . be-cause two stupid, silly, greedy members did something that most of us would never do," referring to Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick, who were disciplined for being willing to accept cash for questions from

reporters posing as businessmen. Mr Nicholls resigned as ad-viser to the company after November's vote, but his role was referred to Sir Gordon by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader.

Mr Prescott said: "Mr Nicholls has been technically cleared but morally condemned. Of course I accept the findings of the report, but most people will rightly be shocked



Testing time: A Russian tourist stands on either side of the Meridian line at the Royal Observatory, in Greenwich, south-east London, ahead of today's second reading in the Commons of the controversial British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, put forward by the Tory MP John Butterfill, which would bring clocks forward by one hour throughout the year, making evenings lighter but early mornings darker

Major laughs off whiff of Tory unrest

of Tory backbench moves to depose him as "silly speculauon" and "nonsense"

Laughing it off during Commons Questions was made easier for the Prime Minister by Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, who disingenuously offered his condolences that "the 'bastards' are plotting again".

The "bastards" was Mr Ma-jor's description, picked up on untransmitted tape, of rightwingers in his Cabinet. However reports in some of yesterday's newspapers suggested a "bloodless coup" was being considered

by party "grandees". Mr Mullin said the current lifficulties of the (Party were not Mr Major's fault. "He simply has the bad luck to be Prime Minister at the time when the bills are coming in for the Thatcher decade.

"If I might offer him a word of advice, it's not a leadership election he needs to offer them, it's a general election. That would shut them up."

Amid laughter from both

sides. Mr Major recalled that the Sunderland MP had some experience, having run the leadership election of one of the losing candidates [Tony Benn] in an earlier Labour Party leadership election.
"So I take with some inter-

est what he says, but perhaps I won't follow it to the letter." Seemingly buoyed up by the whiff of unrest, the Prime Minister dealt briskly with Ian Pearson, Labour winner of the Dudley West by-election, who wondered what difference bad been made by last year's lead-ership contest. "We bave this silly speculation almost every week there is a Thursday in. Mr Major replied. "It has been nonsense in the past and its non-

Speculation that the Min-istry of Defence would choose Land Rover amhulances rather than an Austrian competitor proved spot on. MPs were told 800 Land Rover ambulances were to be ordered along with 8,000 Defender XDs from the same manufacturer, replacing about half the Army's lowed through."

ohn Major vesterday fleet of ageing utility vehicles. brushed aside fresh reports The orders are worth more than £200m and should help sustain 500 jobs.

Bloc.

The announcement coincided with the Commons' annual debate on the Army during which Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, dwelt on the "daunting task" of recruiting enough young soldiers for the fighting end. To main-tain the right balance of age and experience the Army must recruit some 15,000 youngsters a year. "The truth is that fewer volunteers are coming forward

than we would like," he said. . The Army is running campaigns and advertising at 1.100 job centres. According to the MoD, the Infantry, Armoured together 2,000 short.

Mr Soames, who enjoyed his days in the 11th Hussars, said



the Army was still a career without parallel in variety and excitement. But better than his list of official jollies was the sto-ry of Neil Coull, of the Royal Logistic Corps, who was challenged to an impromptu boxing match by the commander of a Muslim road block in Bosnia

Corp Coull, from Billingham in Cleveland, was on a routine mail run last July when he found a Canadian convoy halted at the road block. He insisted the British forces' mail be allowed through but the com-mander barred the route until he noticed a pair of boxing gloves in the back of the Land Rover. "Corp Coull, a keen amateur boxer, was promptly challenged to a winner-takes-all boxing match." Mr Soames related. "A makeshift ring was marked out by the roadside and amid much cheering, Corp Coull knocked his opponent to the ground in 30 seconds. As a result, the Queen's mail was al-

Pay demand MPs seek Nolan support

COLIN BROWN

sense now."

Senior Tory MPs want the controversial issue of pay rises for MPs to be referred to the Nolan

Committee on public standards. The MPs are seeking the support of the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats to refer the growing demands for a large increase in their £34,0850. a-year salaries to the Nolan Committee to ensure that action

They fear that Parliament has become hamstrung over MPs' pay rises, after the row surrounding MPs' earnings which followed the Nolan Committee recommendations on their

private incomes. Sir Terence Higgins, a member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee, is one of

Committee. He has made it clear to colleagues that it could not be done by Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, without the backing of Ann Taylor, Labour's spokesman, and the

Liberal Democrats. Labour and Liberal Democrat sources said yesterday they both supported the principle of MPs' pay being decided by an independent formula, and may support such a move.

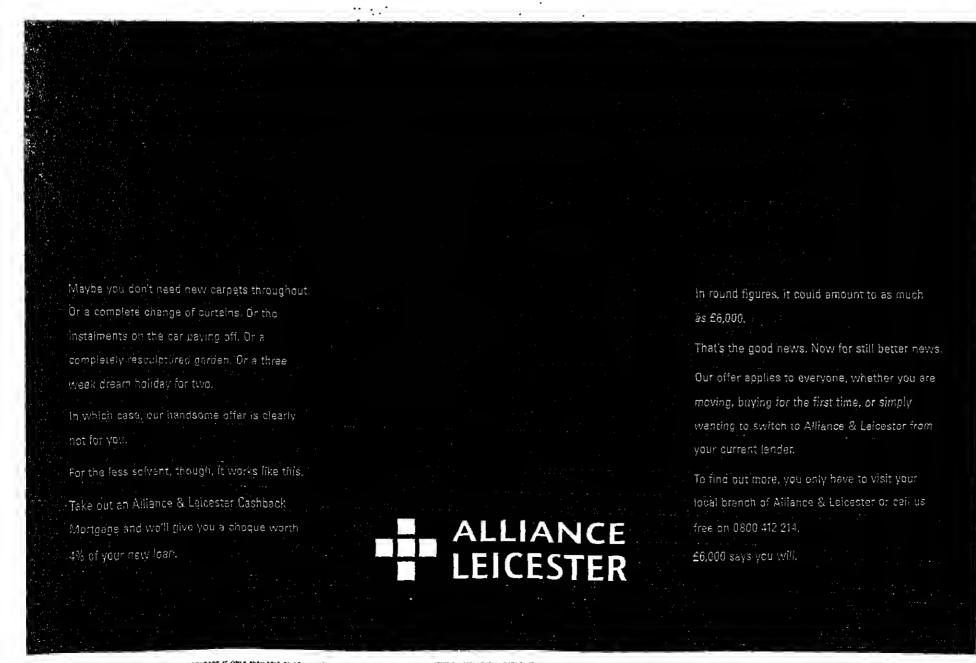
There are misgivings about the idea among some Tory MPs. "Labour will agree to a pay rise for MPs, providing we stop all our outside earnings. I don't think we'd like that," said one

Tory backbencher. A poll in Parliamentary Monitor by Harris Political Research this week showed that both Conservative and Labour those senior Tory MPs sup-porting referral to the Nolan rise.

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Branson's balloon waits on weather

Home Office admits jobless link to crime

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Unemployment is forcing a new generation of young men

into a kind of "perpetual adolescence" that leads to more crime, according to Home Office research. The study provides little com-

fort for ministers, not only be-cause it underlines links between unemployment and offending, but also because it suggests that the threat of being caught and imprisoned did not deter them. Completed two years ago, the study was one of six which the Government was accused of "sitting on" because it did not like the conclusions.

It bas found that men are no longer growing out of their offending behaviour - mainly theft and hurglary - in their late teens, and are instead continuing their criminal activities well into their twenties. There was, that young male offenders develop a moral conscience which may inhibit their offending as face more serious hazards in one parent or in a step-family making the transition from childhood to adulthood - in par-ticular the availability and heavy use of drugs increasing the risk of criminal activity.

But while girls, who, between 14 and 17, offend almost as much as their male counterparts, mature out of the cycle, boys do not. A key factor is the inability to find work - traditionally one of the main ways of "providing a sense of direction and security and hestowing the status of manhood upon young males," the report says.

Researchers questioned more than 2,500 young people aged between 14 and 25 about their lifestyle, backgrounds, family life, schooling - and any offences they had committed. They were also questioned

about their use of drugs. They found that a quarter of all juvenile crime is committed into their twenties. There was, said the report, "little evidence" of young offenders. Poor parenting and early truancy from school were key factors. Young people living with both natur-al parents were less likely to

although young men who bad had a particularly bad relationship with their father were particularly likely to offend. The survey also found that

one in two males and one in three females had admitted to committing offences, with the same numbers admitting to using drugs - mostly cannahis.

The report, by John Graham and Ben Bowling, recommends targeting drug abuse pro-grammes at 13- and 14-yearolds, making schools the focus of community crime prevention strategies, and developing community based schemes to support and "parent" young men who have no family support.

Presented yesterday to the

first meeting of a new ministerial group on juveniles, it also found that young Asians are less likely to commit offences or use drugs than either whites or Afro-Caribbeans; that the peak age for offending among men is 21, and 16 for women. Young People and Crime, Research and Planning Unit, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London

Up but not yet away: Richard Branson (left) bides his time with a practice hot-air balloon flight over Marrakesh yesterday Photograph: John Voos **CHARLES ARTHUR**

Adverse weather conditions over Asia have forced Ricbard Branson and his Virgin Global Challenger team to delay their attempt to fly around the world in a giant helium-filled bal-

The absence of a £10,000 cock-

pit voice recorder hindered and

prolonged the investigation into

the helicopter crash that killed 29 people including Northern

Ireland counter-terrorism ex-

perts, a crash investigator said

Transport inspector, Anthony Cable, told the inquiry into the

tragedy that "black box" acci-

dent data recorders and cock-

A senior Department of

vesterdav.

loon, at least until next Tuesday. Computer forecasts by the Meteorological Office, in Brack-

nell, Berkshire, of the weather at 30,000 feet for the next four days suggest that once the balloon had crossed Europe, strong winds would blow it so far north that it would quickly take on up north. There the air is so cold that as soon as it came down ... into more damp air it would to two tonnes of ice, and be ice up - just like an ice lolly when forced to the ground.

Martin Harris, a meteorological expert from the University of North London, and an adviser to the team, said yes-

terday: "We have to wait until er or later, we're going to fly," conditions in the jetstream are he said. "And Morocco is not a just right. At the moment the bad place to wait in." winds would push the balloon

you take it out of the fridge." However, this news has not caused a depression to cross Mr

Crash Chinook carried no black box

Poor weather has also delayed Henk Brink, a Dutchman who bad intended to launch a rival attempt from the Netherlands on Sunday. Some reports suggest Mr Brink may abandon his attempt altogether.

Mr Branson and his team-Branson's warm front, "Soon- member Per Lindstrand, who

designed the balloon, said they feared ice more than any other weather phenomenon: "Lightning just makes a hole in the halloon," said Mr Lindstrand, "you would have to come down, but it won't kill you." This was proven in the 1950s, when lightning struck one of the first balloon attempts to cross the Atlantic. The pilot's

they grow older". The study concludes that young people today offend than those living with SW1H 9AT Block on parents urged

WENDY BERLINER Education Correspondent

Schools should be allowed to ban pupils whose parents attack staff or threaten violence even if the child has done nothing to warrant exclusion, Britain's biggest head teachers' organisation says today.

Head teachers fed up of being attacked by parents who object to them disciplining their children ask the Government today why they should be expected to educate the children of abusive parents.

Last year, 69 members of the National Association of Head Teachers were assaulted or violently abused. Twelve have claims before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

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should be allowed to refuse to take in violent pupils excluded from other schools or to reinstate violent or disruptive pupils of their own unless there is a favourable report on them

and the school feels it can cope. The NAHT makes its points in a response to a Government review of the rules governing the management of disruptive and violent pupils by schools.

The heads are complaining that the review does not include the activities of violent parents nor the problems of schools forced to admit pupils who have disrupted other schools. The issue of thuggish and

dangerous behaviour in schools has been given fresh prominence and urgency by the death

The NAHT also says it of Philip Lawrence, the London head teacher stabbed when he went to the aid of one of his The association claims in its

submission to the Government that the problem is rapidly reaching "nightmare proportions" as the system for dealing with excluded pupils breaks down, Schools are being forced by their local education authorities to admit teenage "thugs" whose needs could not be met in mainstream schools.

Problems are compounded when local appeal committees overturn school governors' de-cisions to exclude pupils, the association says. The NAHT is calling for appeal committees to be chaired by someone legally qualified

craft crash investigations. But the Mark II Chinook helicopter was fitted with neither when it ploughed into the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994. The crash killed 10 high-ranking RUC officers, nine Army intelligence

experts, six MI5 experts and the four-man RAF crew. Mr Cahle, of the DoT's Air

> ... in strictly diagnotic towns. Movembers and Enternophthorates orders of

pit voice recorders commonly yielded "major benefits" in air-recorder section estimates that a CVR [cockpit voice recorder] typically costs \$10,000 to \$15,000, including the unit and its installation." While it was preferable to have both, a cockpit voice recorder alone could rield much information, and had been used to great effect in

several investigations. Mr Cable, on his third day in Accidents Investigation Branch. the witness box, summarised erations. Almost all parts of the

what he had been able to establish. The doomed machine hit Beinn na Lice, a hill hehind the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, at a height of 810ft, and travelling at about 150 knots at the point of first impact. At the point of impact, it was climbing at a 20 degree angle relative to the horizontal.

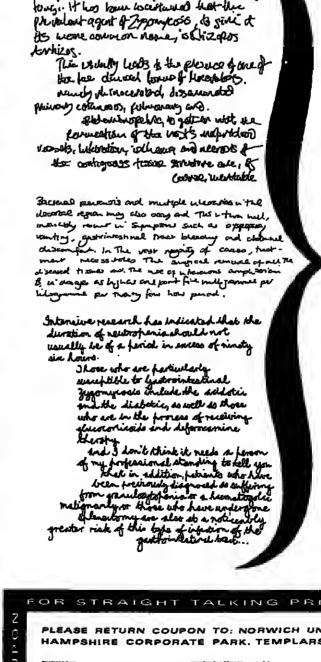
Engine and instrument indications all suggested normal op-

flight control mechanical systems were retrieved with no evidence of pre-impact failure, although the possibility of a control system jam could not be "positively" ruled out.

Earlier, Mr Cable said a study of the helicopter's navigation computer by the manufacturers, Racal, showed the navigation system was working "perfectly" and the pilots had been using it properly.

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German inferno: Cause of Lubeck fire a mystery but police suspect Nazis are involved

Hostel blaze kills 10 migrants

IMRE KARACS

At least 10 people, including four children, were killed and scores injured yesterday in a huge blaze which gutted a house occupied by asylum seekers in the Baltic port of Lübeck. Although German police left open the possibility that the blaze was caused by accident, they questioned three young

men on suspicion of arson.

We are following up every avenue. Everything from tecbnical fault to arson is conceivable," said Winfried Tabarelli the head of Lübeck's criminal police. The three suspects, one of whom was described as a skinhead, were all from Grevesmühlen, 20 miles east across the border that used to separate the two Germanies.

They were known to the police, but not for neo-Nazi activities. Nevertheless, the authorities did not rule out a racial motive, and the Mayor of Lübeck, Michael Bouteiller. called for a demonstration against neo-Nazi violence. Last night some 4,000 people, many carrying flowers, gathered in the centre of the city to commemorate the victims.

The blaze erupted shortly before 4am and spread rapidly through the four-storey building, turning into a fireball as it consumed the timber in the converted loft. The bouse, like similar refugee bostels across Germany, was packed with people, many of them probably illegal immigrants. The building had 45 registered residents, mostly Zaireans, Togolese, Syrians, Lebanese and Poles, but fire-fighters counted well

Apart from the 10 dead, 55 people were injured, suffering from burns, suffocation and

fractures as they leapt out of the of the world. The four people windows in panic. Five people were last night in critical condition. So intense were the flames that rescue workers were for a long time unable to enter the building, fearing that the

structure would collapse. As stunned neighbours last night gathered round the charred ruin of what used to be a solid turn-of-the-century building, the cause of the fire remained unclear. Some city officials claimed to have evidence, not confirmed by police, that the flames engulfed the house from



victim blames arsonists

several directions simultaneously, indicating the fire was started deliberately.

If they turn out to be right, and if the motive proves to be racist, then yesterday's events will go down in history as the most murderous attack yet by neo-Nazis. Until now that infamy was claimed by the town of Solingen near Cologne, where two Turkish women and three girls perished on the night of 29 May 1993 in a fire started by right-wing extremists.

That attack, followed by violent demonstrations by Turks, shocked Germany and the rest extremists.

involved received sentences of between 10 and 15 years, and the authorities clamped down on neo-Nazis.

But while many extremists were forced underground or abroad, racist attacks have persisted, on a smaller scale. These are often perpetrated by freelance hooligans rather than organised neo-Nazis.

Lübeck itself has had its sbare of trouble. During Passover in 1994 its synagogue was the first in Germany to draw the Nazi fire since the Second World War. A year later, a different set of thugs returned, setting the synagogue's store room

The countryside around Lübeck is a botbed of neo-Nazi activity. Day-trippers from the impoverished east go there looking for trouble, harassing foreigners and spreading propaganda. Not far from the city the town of Mölln, notorious for one of the first attacks on immigrants in what became a vogue after German unification. In 1992 a Turkish woman and two girls were hurnt to death in a manner that was to become the ballmark of neo-Nazi terror.

But though the statistics seemingly indicate no break in the pattern, the violence abated after Solingen. Reports of fires at immigrant homes appear in the German press almost daily. There was one such incident yesterday at the town of Burgwedel, 120 miles south of Lübeck, where arsonists tried to set a bome for Yugoslav immigrants on fire. But this may well turn out to have been the work of members of the same community, just as most attacks on Turkish targets these days are blamed on Kurdish



Fanning the flames: Firemen bring the Lübeck blaze under control in an incident which has again highlighted attacks on asylum-seekers Photograph: Michael Probst/AP

Court bans Mitterrand doctor's book

MARY DEJEVSKY

In a landmark decision, a Paris judge yesterday banned distribution of a book by the late President François Mitterrand's doctor and ordered the publisher to pay a heavy fine for copies already sold. The judge, Jacqueline Cochard, described the book, The Great Secret, as a "particularly serious intrusion" into the family's privacy and instructed the seizure of all remaining copies.

In the book, Dr Claude Gubler accused Mitterrand of lying about his cancer since it was diagnosed in 1981 and said that, in his opinion, the late president was "incapable" of ex-ercising his official functions for the last six months he was in office. He later clarified that he

had meant physically rather than mentally incapable. The judgment delighted the French political establishment, which bad subjected Dr Gubler to a verbal lynching since an extract from the book appeared in the magazine Paris-Match earlier this week. Leading politicians of all parties had rushed to deplore what they said was a breach of medical confidentiality and anathematised Dr Gubier variously as a "traitor". 'liar" and "criminal".

He was also denounced by professional medical associations and risks being struck off.

Dr Gubler was Mitterrand's doctor for 13 years and wrote the book jointly with a former journalist at Paris-Match. It chronicles the progress of the president's cancer from its diagnosis six months after be came to office in 1981 until 1994

when Dr Gubler left the president's service. Until 1992 Dr Gubler revealed, the diagnosis had been classified a state secret and all reference to it was omitted from the regular medical reports Mitterrand had undertaken to publish.

The case for the ban was brought by members of Mitterrand's family: his widow, Danielle, their two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert, his mistress of 20 years, Anne Pingoot, and their daughter, Mazarine. They instituted proceedings immediately after the first excerpt appeared on Tnesday. The book was published on

As well as being banned from distributing the book further, the publisher, Editions Plon, must also pay a fine of 1,000 francs (£133) for each copy sold - more than 10 times the

98-franc cover price. Mrs Cochard based her judg-Mrs Cochard based her judg-ment on what she said was a per-son's absolute right to privacy. "Every individual," she said, "whatever his rank, has the right to respect for his private life." The book she said was "a particularly serious intrusion into ... the private family life of President Mitterrand". She added that the right extended to the individual's family.

She said the offence was all the more intolerable because the book appeared within days of President Mitterrand's death.

Dr Gubler's counsel had argued that the "freedom of every Frenchman to know about the health of the head of state" took precedence over the protection of personal privacy.

The doctor and his publish-

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IN BRIEF

Nigerian ruler's son killed in air crash

Lagos - A presidential jet carrying Ibrahim Abacha, the eldest son of the Nigerian military ruler. General Sani Abacha. crashed on Wednesday night. killing all 14 people aboard. The pilot had reported engine problems shortly before the crash near Kano airport, in the north of the country, the National News Agency of Nigeria said. An unknown group calling itself United Front for Nigeria's Liberation claimed responsibility for the crash. .Agencies

Serb 'killer' held

Karlsruhe - A Serb who bas been living in Germany for nearly three years has been arrested on suspicion of murdering 27 Muslims in 1992, the chief federal prosecutor's office said. The man, apparently a Bosnian Serb identified only as 34-yearold Novislav D, was arrested on Wednesday in Munich.

Matinee idol dies

Hyderabad - N T Rama Rao. the matinee idol turned political leader. died of a massive beart attack, only months after being turned out of office by his son-in-law, Chandrababu Naidu. Rama Rao, 73, bad led his Telugu Desam Party to a landslide victory in 1994 elections in the state of Andhra

Obituary, Page 16 Death train arrest

Lusaka - The driver of one of two passenger trains that col-lided close to the Zambian border town of Livingstone, killing at least 22 people on Wednesday, has been arrested. "According to Zambia Railways management, the driver disobeyed instructions, leading to the collision," a Southern Province official said. Reuter Ministers quit

New Delhi — An \$18m (£11.8m) bribery scandal reached the core of the Indian government as President Shankar Dayal Sharma accepted the resignations of the Agri-culture Minister, Balram Jakhar, the Human Resources Development Minister, Madhavrao Scindia, and the Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Vidya Charan Shukla. Reuter

'No' to coalition

Ankara - The Motherland Party leader, Mesut Yilmaz, rejected an offer from the Islamist Welfare Party to form a coalition, effectively ending the Islamists' hopes of coming to

Rocking to fame

New York — David Bowie, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Shirelles, Jefferson Airplane. Pink Floyd, the Velvet Underground and the late blues balladeer Little Willie John were inducted into the Rock'n'Roll Hall uf Fame on Wednesday

Juppé to spend £2bn reviving inner cities

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, yesterday put forward a plan intended to boost deprived urban areas. Mr Juppé announced a de-

velopment programme for 700 deprived urban areas across France, and a subsidy of 15bn francs (£2bn) to help to fund it, making it one of the largest state projects ever.

The programme, which had

been promised by Jacques Chirac during his campaign for the presidency last year, was giv-en special priority after a rash of rioting and unrest in the suburbs of French cities over the

The measures include the

establishment of 20 enterprise zones, which will be exempt from local and business taxes for five years; the provision of 4,000 extra police; new units for repeat juvenile offenders; and the creation of 100,000 jobs over by the state and restricted to those between the ages of 18 and 25. One in four under-25s in France is unemployed, and the proportion on many housing estates is much higher.

In line with Mr Chirac's New Year pledge to make government ministers more accessible and more visible in the provinces, Mr Juppé chose to introduce his plan in the southern port city of Marseilles against the a backdrop of some of the worst slums in France.

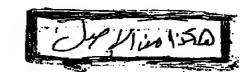




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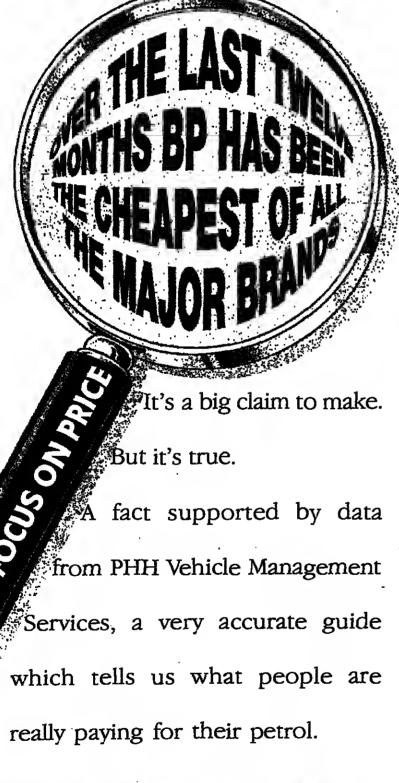
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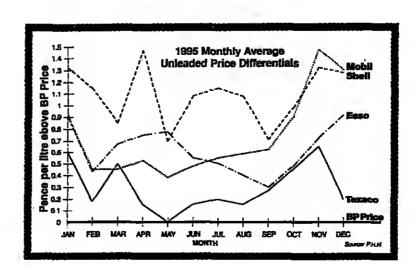


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Chechen crisis: The bloody battle for Pervomayskoye is over, but the war between Moscow and Caucasian rebels goes on

Guns fall silent, but the truth is elusive

PHIL REEVES near Pervomayskoye

As darkness fell, the landscape of northern Dagestan, pristine under a fresh fall of snow, fell silent after a day of intermittent bombing which had finally reduced the village to ruins.

But the counting was still going on. Boris Yeltsin said 153 Chechen fighters had been killed, and 28 captured; the Russian forces had lost only 26 soldiers; and 82 hostages were freed while 18 were unaccounted for, possibly escaped. But these figures must remain

at the very least, highly dubious. If the President is right then it gives the lie to statements by his Federal Security Service which on Wednesday said Russian forces were finally finishing off the operation with "massive fire" after the Chechens had massacred "practically all" of their hostages, apart from 28 who were either freed or

Mr Yeltsin's claims were also at odds with a figure of 42 freed hostages given by his Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, and added to a day of confusion which owed much to the Kremlin's decision to expel journalists from the vicinity of Pervomayskoye for the last phase of the assault.

The hostages themselves. taken after the Chechen Lone Wolf group seized a hospital in Kizlyar, were far from convinced that the Russian soldiers had their best interests at heart. Dima Alexanderovich, 38, eyes red with fatigue, said he escaped after hreaking through Russian lines with a hand of Chechens. He denied Russian claims that the Chechens executed any of the hostages. "They never shot anyone," he said, "they didn't ahuse us, they did not even

Mr Alexanderovich, a driver at the hospital at Kizlyar, told Agence France-Presse that he never felt at risk from the Chechens but from his rescuers. The Russians almost killed him on numerous occasions, he said. "The last two days they were simply carpet bomh-ing us. There's not a house left

Kurban Ibargimovich, 31, said that on Wednesday when the Russians intensified bombing the Chechens tried to hreak for him to gain much credit.

through their lines to Chechnya and he went with them. "There was total panic. No one thought we would live. There was firing on three sides and it seemed there was no hope," he said. "They were firing everything -

machine-guns, grenade launch-ers, everything. It was hell." The truth about the death toll, and the conduct of the operation, remains elusive. Mr Yeltsin also said that the reason the assault on the small village was so protracted was that it concealed an underground base with concrete gun emplacements, a bizarre claim.

What was clear though was that the Russians carried through the threat to use massive force to end the 10-day crisis.Throughout Wednesday night, the Russians pounded the village with Grad missiles and heavy artillery in the most intense assault of the last three days. Yesterday morning the bombardment continued intermittently, interrupted by occasional volleys of machine-gun fire before dying away in the

Last night details of the casualties caused by the bombing were trickling in, Russian TV crews who were taken to within 500m of the village by the military authorities, saw 30 bodies, apparently Chechen fighters. They said that some of the guerrillas had broken out of Pervomayskoye, which was reduced to rubble, and had been mowed down after penetrating Russian

A Russian soldier also produced a video tape of what appeared to be about 20 Chechens taken prisoner by the Russians.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports circulated that the rebel leader, Salman Raduyev, had escaped from the blitzed village along with 100 fellow fighters.

In the early hours vesterda the Russians suffered another humiliation when Chechen rebels managed to attack the forces from the rear by mounting a raid in nearby Sovietskoye, reportedly killing three

Mr Yeltsin will do his best to squeeze political advantage from this affair, presenting himself as a decisive leader willing to crush Chechen terrorism. But the operation took too long and was too badly hungled

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Ship hijackers play to media circus

HUGH POPE

The drama of a Black Sea ferry, the Avrasya, hijacked by chen gunmen holding more than 100 Russian hostages, was due to reach a media-focused climax late last night as she steamed towards Istanbul and the promise of a big news conference for the hijackers to condemn Russia's conduct of the war in Chechnya.

Overtaken by the events in agestan and under pressure by the Turkish authorities and the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, the hijackers dropped their threat to blow up the ship if Russia did not end its assault on Chechen militants who had been holding Russians hostage in the village of Pervomayskoye.

control, We will come to Istanbul and make our press state-ment," said the chief hijacker, Muhammed Tokcan, in negotiations to end the crisis, a tape of which was played on Turkish television.

Turkey's Transport Minister said the security forces would prefer the Avrasva not to travel through the Bosphorus to Istanbul, because it was rigged to explode. It was hijacked on Ruesday night in the Turkish port of Trabzon.

The minister suggested the ship put in at Eregli, which the Avrasya had reached at nightfall. But a Turkish official said "no decision has been made to stop them. We are seeking a peaceful settlement. Other possibilities are only a last resort".

The Foreign Ministry dis-

Boris Yeltsin to send Russian special forces to help storm the ferry, whose Turkish captain says it is carrying 114 Russian passengers. The 40-man crew is almost all Turkish, as are another 43 passengers.

Television stations have turned the crisis into a live 24 hour drama, so much so that officials in charge of negotiations had trouble getting through on ship-to-shore radio telephones. "Our media is unbelievable. unstoppable, out of control," lamented an official. The hijackers also have an unusual attitude: the ferry captain said they have been zapping through the channels on a television set on the hridge to check on the

coverage they are getting. They faxed Hurriya newspaper to complain about a headline saying "the terror of

Chechnya" had spread to Turkey, and an editor at Currhurivet had to defend his judgement that the hijacking of innocents was terrorism. "You talk about us as terrorists. If you are a journalist, you have to be bonourable and tell the truth," railed a hijacker who, though he spoke Turkish, said he was a

It is thought that two of the hijackers may be Chechens and another from Abkhazia, a Muslim part of Georgia. The five others are thought to be Turkish citizens of Caucasian descent, including the leader, Mr Tokcan, whose father is as an imam in their native Abkhazia.

All have fought in the Caucasus, and Mr Tokcan, who got his military training as a Turkish commando fighting the erument after the indecisive Kurds, is a close friend of the

Chechen hero Shamil Basayev. Mr Tokcan's Chechen fiancée is said to have been killed during Russian attacks on Chechnya. Turks of Caucasian origin

have voiced sympathy with the hijackers, helped by the fact that the only casualty so far has been a Turkish harbour official slightwounded in the storming of the Avrasya. Most other Turks also sympathise with their Chechen fellow Muslims, but opinion-formers and columnists seem to be reserving judgement until the outcome is

Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister, has also kept a low profile, leaving the crisis in the hands of a team in the security directorate. Turkey is still trying to form a new gov-

elections on 24 December.

Assault 'reckless' about hostages

BRIAN KILLEN

Moscow — Izvestia said yesterday that special forces were recidess and disorganised when they launched the assault on Chechen rebels in Pervomayskoye this week.

The newspaper's correspondent, Valery Yakov, who spent three days near the battle zone defying a ban on reporters, de-scribed scenes of chaos, confusion and disinformation in which troops showed scant regard for the lives of the

"To call this an operation to save hostages is, to say the least, cynical," Mr Yakov wrote. Those who remain alive are not those alleged to have been saved, but those lucky enough to survive."

Mr Yakov reached the village of Pervomayskoye with two other Russian journalists by slipping across the nearby border from Chechnya. You would need a rich imagination to talk about the borders being

I-F firs

de

sealed with a reliable cordon."
They joined Russian forces in trenches only a few hundred metres from rebel positions on the eve of the storming of the village, which started on Monday with an attack by helicopters and artillery.

The three were ejected on Wednesday after being detained and questioned when they ran into the Federal Security Service director, Mikhail Barsukov, who was in command of the op-

Mr Yakov dismissed official statements that the storming was necessary because the rebels had shot dead six of the hostages as well as a group of Dagestani elders seeking to negotiate. "Nothing of the kind happened in Pervomayskoye,

"All of the firing by the fed-eral forces landed not so much around the rebels as around the hostages," Mr Yakov said "What was actually happen-

ing resembled freeing of hostages least of all. This was a real military operation to storm an enemy village using all forces

"I trust you. I accept your missed an offer from President Yeltsin vows to bring war home to Dudayev

HELEN WOMACK

President Boris Yeltsin gave an ominous signal yesterday that, with the operation to clear Pervomayskoye of Chechen rebels more or less over, Russia would now step up the war

in Chechnya itself with a direct attack on the rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"We taught a good lesson to Dudayev," the President said, briefing reporters on the fourday battle on the Dagestan border. "Now we have to deal a blow to Dudayev's strongholds where there is no civilian population in order to put an end to terrorism on Russian soil."

On the ferry seizure by pro-Chechen gunmen in Turkey, he added: "Terrorism has spread to Turkey, which means one can wait no longer. This is already international terrorism."

Evidently Mr Yeltsin has it in mind to strike at the villages in the mountains of southern Chechnya where the Muslim militants have been based since being pushed out of their cap-ital, Grozny, last year. From here, they carried out a terror-ist raid on the sonthern Russian town of Budyennovsk last June as well as the latest attack, which began in the Dagestani town of Kizlyar last week and ended with 100 hostages being dragged to Pervomayskoye.

It is perhaps too early to draw conclusions as to how Russians will now view their President. He is more hawkish, not only in response to the hostage crisis but also as a result of the victory of his Communist and nationalist opponents in December's elections. When he launched the assault on Pervomayskoye, an poll showed Mus-covites almost equally divided on the wisdom of being tougher

with the Chechens. The new parliament, which on Wednesday elected the Communist Gennady Seleznyov as Speaker, is to spare the government a vote of no-confidence, restricting itself to issuing a statement. suing a statement urging an "adequate response" to the Chechen rebellion.

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Friend of Europe is Greek PM

ANDREW GUMBEL

reckless

Greece's ruling party last night chose its leading dissident, Costas Simitis, as the country's new Prime Minister, signathing a major shift away from the charismatic populism of his predecessor, Andreas Papandreou, in favour of reform and closer co-operation with the European Union.

Mr Simitis, a 59-year-old economist and commercial lawyer with broad experience of government, beat off challenges from two Papandreou loyalists, the party apparatchik Akis Tsochadzopoulos and Defence Minister Gerassimos Arsenis, in a tense two-round ballot of Pasok's parliamentary party.

Despite being frozen out of the government and the Pasok leadership for the past four donia, and seemed bent on up-

months, Mr Similis was the most popular of the three can-didates and commanded the most international respect. He is widely seen as the man most likely to lead Pasok to victory at the general elections slated for October 1997.

*Our country should become a substantive contributor to European developments, play a role in the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean and create bonds of co-operation that will contribute to our development," Mr Simitis said in his hustings speech to Pasok's central committee earlier this week.

This was a far cry from the rheroric of Mr Papandreou, who until his illness and incapacitation last November held up EU development funds, created an international furore by delaying recognition of Mace-

holding Greece's place in the world by turning his nose up at anyone who disagreed with him.

Political sources say Mr Simitis is likely to invite his leading dissident friends, the so-called "Gang of Four", back into government, appointing the fiery former European Affairs minister, Theodore Pangalos, to the Foreign Ministry and bringing the former European Commissioner, Vasso Papandreou, into his economic team.

Mr Simitis would also like to transform Pasok from a populist movement into a mainstream centre-left party, along the lines of Tony Blair's Labour Party. This may prove more difficult. wever, as the party leadership remains nominally in Mr Papandreou's hands and elections for a new party leader are not expected until June. Mr Simins will fight hard to

to lead Pasok to victory appoint one of his loyalists to the deputy leadership in the meantime. If he fails, he will

have to temper his reformist in-

stincts to avoid splitting the par-

ty. A serious rift does not look likely, however, since all sides

to win the contest from the outset, but faced a far rougher ride than expected from Mr

Tsochadzopoulos, who garnered considerable support for-lowing Mr Papandreou's resignation on Monday night. Thanks to last-minute cam-

paigning by his close colleague, the Cabinet Secretary, Antonis Livanis, Mr Tsochadzopoulos was level-pegging with Mr Simi-tis on the first ballot with 53 votes, followed by Mr Arsenis on 50 and a fourth candidate, Yannis Charalambopoulos, on 11. On the second ballot, how-ever, Mr Simitis beat his rival by 86 votes to 75.

The atmosphere among Papandreou loyalists last night was one of rats leaving a sinking ship. The career of Mr

know that Pasok's best chance is to stay united.

Mr Simitis had been favourite

Livanis, who has virtually run the country during the past two years as Mr Papandreou's health has failed, is almost certainly over. More junior acolytes, how-ever, were quick to switch allegiances, among them Elisabeth

Papazoi, a close adviser of Mr Papandreou's wife Dimitra. Dimitra will almost certainly be the biggest loser. She will lose her job as bead of the Prime Minister's private office and can abandon all ambitions to enter parliament for Pasok.

Mr Simitis's victory is not liketo cheer Mr Papandreou either. The two had not spoken since Mr Simitis was fired as industry minister last September. "According to members of his entourage," a European diplomat reported, "Mr Papandreou's only remaining wish is to live long enough to make life hell for his successor.

Mystery birth of Tex-Mex drug lord

Juan Garcia Abrego, the alleged Mexican cocaine haron, was born again - on the other side of the US-Mexican border from the site of his first appearance in the world. Gar-cia Abrego, who was captured near Monterrey on Sunday and hastily deported to a delighted United States the next day, has two birth certificates. Legal wrangling over them may determine his future.

His birth was first registered in Cameron County, Texas, and he is, therefore, American, Mexico's interior ministry insisted, producing faxed copies of the 1944 registration.

But just over the border, a Matamoros civil registry official said little Juan's birth certificate shows he was born "on September 13, 1944, in this municipality"

Que pasa? Along the Rio Grande, parents often register their children on both sides of the porous border. If Garcia Abrego can prove he is Mexi-can he may be able to challenge his deportation to the US, where he starred on the FBI's most-wanted list.

Keen to wash their hands of him, Mexican officials are searching for his American passport, asserting that he "didn't have a Mexican pass-port, at least [not] a real one." Garcia Ahrego's US nation-

ality, they say, was the reason he was so speedily dispatched to a Texas jail after his arrest. Government critics, however, say the haste had more to do with getting him out of Mexico before he could either hribe anyone or make statements that could embarrass officials.

The Prince of Wales is not the only heir to a European throne under fire for hunting. Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands is ducking the same bullets. Dutch newspapers have been running advertisements calling on the Crown Prince to lay down his weapons, which he usually points at deer and wild boar. "The heavy responsibility you bear as our future king can-

not be combined with spreading death and destruction amongst defenceless animals." said the Foundation For Critical Wildlife Care.

By the start of the week, the prince had received several hundred faxes wreing him to give up the pastime. Little hunting is actually done in the



Abrego: Future Garcia hangs on his nationality

developed Netherlands, hut stocks of hoar and deer are maintained in the forests of He1 Loo palace - and 170 of each species were shot last year.

Gaza's best-known female grenades at Israeli army jeeps. In Nîma al-Helo's last attack, in 1972, she lost an arm and an eye. Now she is hurling herself into the campaign for a seat in the Palestinian legislature.

Ms Helo is one of only 28 women among the 676 candidates chasing 88 seats on the council. Other statistics: she was detained for a total of 14 years. and spent 27 months on the run.

Her university classrooms, she said, were Israeli prison cells, and in a society where marriage and children are expected of women, Ms Helo has other priorities. "I have an agenda," she told Reuters: "To educate women, to protect the families of martyrs, to rehuild families destroyed by the Israeli occupation."

Twenty-five years on, Al Gore still remembers Dr Trebla Erog, a Swedish gynaecologist, At a Nashville dinner to raise money for Jerry Thompson, a reporter at the Tennesseean who has cancer, the Vice-President recalled his days as a young reporter for the newspaper. Mr Thompson, he said, initiated new staff by phoning them, pos-ing as a funeral director, and offering information for an ohituary. The name of the deceased would be the reporter's name spelled backwards.

Albert Gore dutifully took down the information on Trehla Erog. And Mr Gore admitted, "I wasn't even close" to catching on to the joke.

Maryann Bird

I-For faces first Bosnia deadlines

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Today is the single most important day so far for the peace mplementation force in Bosnia. Most of the actions stipulated under the Dayton peace agreement have been completed with surprising ease and good will; only one, the exchange of prisoners of war, is being delayed until the last moment. If, by midnight tonight, 30 days after the agreement came into effect, the prisoners are not released. then all three parties will be in breach of the agreement.

The other outstanding matter is 120 mujahedin - militant Muslim fighters from Islamic countries - in the Bihac area. Under the Dayton agreement, they should have left Bosnia by 13 January. Yesterday a British company of 100 troops and five Warrior fighting vehicles headed into the area to persuade the *mujahedin* to leave for Zagreh. The problem is where

The four kilometre "zone of Separation" straddling the ceasefire line and the new frontier between the Muslim/Croat and Serb entities within Bosnia has been cleared of troops and all the mined areas marked, as agreed. More than a thousand minefield records have been

The implementation force, I-

areas to be handed over under the agreement.

The higgest, 400 square miles, which I-For calls "the Anvil", is centred on Sipovo, where the British 4th Armoured Brigade has taken up residence. It is a sorry, bleak wilderness, occupied by I-For troops and the Bosnian Croat army. A few civilians remain, including the population of two Croat villages, They lived, untroubled, under

Bosnian Serb rule. In the summer, the Serbs were pushed out. By mid-March, they will have returned under the terms of the Dayton agreement. Brigadier Richard Dannatt, commanding 4th Brigade, is trying to persuade the Croats to stay, and they may well do so.

With its work cut out to ensure the Dayton terms are fulfilled, I-For has avoided being dragged into investigating the allegations of a mass grave of warcrime victims near Ljuhija, south of Prijedor. That hes outside its mandate, but it is a delmatter. Muslim-Croat side has demanded action, and I-For will

report anything it hears. Last night the British Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, arrived to see the higgest deployment of British forces for real since the Gulf war. More than 10,000 have now arrived and many of those are heading for the Anvil. Just before they reach the Anvil, they



Safety first: US troops in Bosnia at a crater caused by a mine-clearing tank hitting a road mine Photograph: Reuter

on a windy, rock-strewn plain For years it was was out of green vehicles with "I-For" in white paint and inverted black Vs - the recognition symbol used in the Gulf - cruise the

road freely. Today Sir Peter will fly over the zone of separation in a helicopter and visit his troops at Sipovo. They have fanned out across the Anvil. and are also For, has moved to secure the enter the assembly area at guarding key installations to shifts westward to the Anvil.

Kupres, a bullet-spatiered town stop them being wrecked before the Serbs return. At Bocac the are guarding a hydro-electric bounds to the UN. Now dark dam which still provides power for Banja Luka, the Serb city

to the north. At Gornji Vakuf, the headquarters of the British-led south-west division, plans are afoot to move to Banja Luka. Gornji Vakuf was right on the front line during the war hetween Muslims and Croats but is now on the rim as the centre



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Iraq wants to talk about oil-for-food sale

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

Iraq yesterday announced that as part of plans to create a democratic atmosphere", its exe-cutioners would oo longer cut_ off criminals' ears. The gov-ernment also told the United Nations it wanted to discuss a deal to sell \$2bn (£1.3bn) of oil to buy food and medicine for its

The two moves were seeo by some diplomats at the UN as signs of compromise in an effort to relieve the suffering of lrag's population five years af-ter the allied air offensive in the Gulf war destroyed the infrastructure. Latest reports from aid workers in Iraq say UN sanctions have since reduced most of its people to penory and hunger while President Saddam Hussein's clique remains in

comfort and in power.
The Justice Minister, Shabib al-Malki, yesterday said Iraq had abolished or suspended laws prescribing punishments such as severing ears or brand-ing the foreheads of criminals. The amputation of hands would also be stopped. "Several laws curbing the freedom of the citizens have been abolished in the light of instructions given by President Saddam Hussein for the prevalence of a democratic atmosphere in Iraq," the minister added.

response to consistently scathing criticism of Iraq's human-rights record by Max van der Stoel, the special rappor-teur, or investigator, appointed by the UN Haman Rights Comsion in Geneva. He had also criticised Iraq for refusing to alleviate the plight of its peo-ple by taking advantage of UN Security Council Resolution 986, which permits it to sell oil in exchange for humanitarian supplies purchased and delivered under UN observation. Under its provisions, Iraq could raise \$2bn for food and medicine every six months but could not use the money for weapons or soldiers' wages. Up to now, Iraq had refused

to accept the terms, claiming they amounted to an infringement of sovereignty. But the UN Secretary General, Bouros Boutros-Ghali, was briefing diplomats in New York last night about new overtures from Iraq suggesting it might come to terms with a limited oil sale.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, has written to Mr Boutros-Ghali saying "we would be prepared to enter a dialogue with you provided that no conditions were placed upon

International oil markets wavered on the news of a possible Iraqi sale, which could push crude prices lower. Newspapers that a delegation led by the head of Iraq's chambers of commerce, Zuhair Abd al-Ghafur Yunis, had travelled to Egypt to discuss plans to import food-

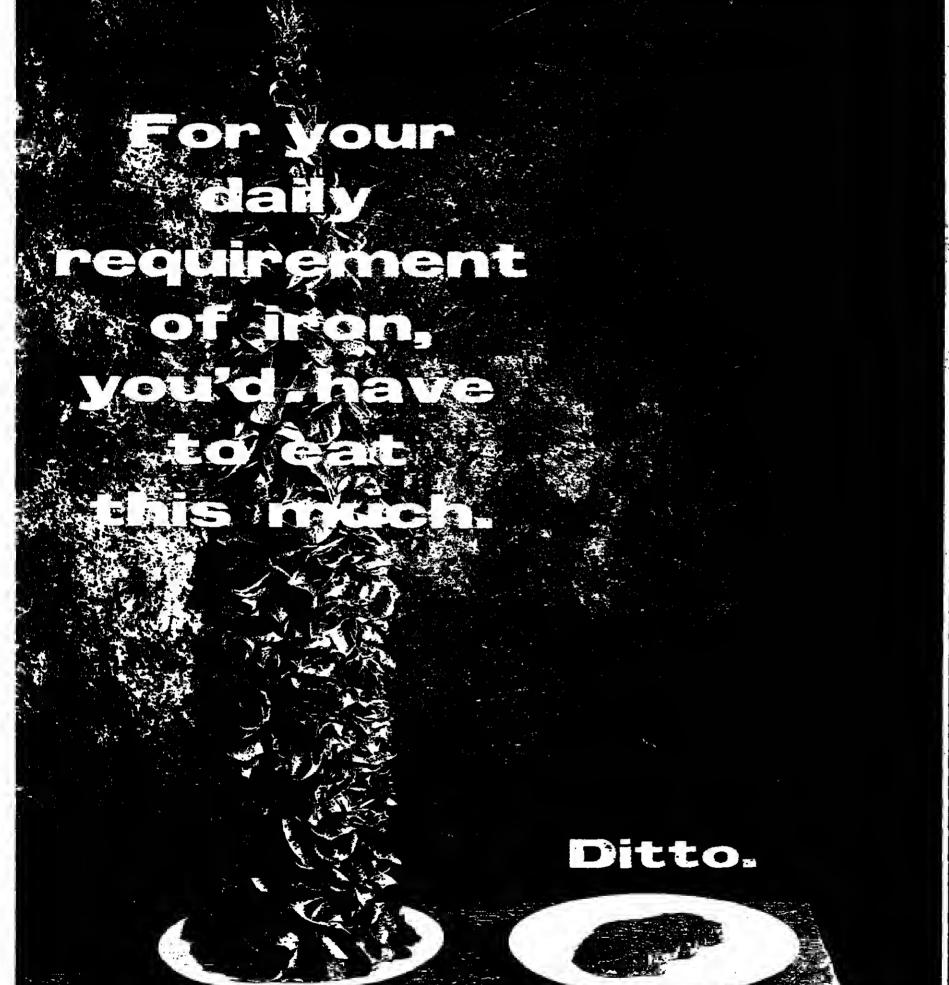
stuffs and medicines. However, British and American diplomats at the UN are likely to lead moves for a tough line in the Security Council against any Iraqi effort to cut an oil-for-food deal outside the terms of Resolution 986. Mr Aziz recently insisted Iraq still found the resolution unacceptable, making it unlikely that countries such as Russia and France, which broadly favour the relaxation of sanctions, will be able to find much room to

This week the press in neigh bouring Jordan carried an intriguing item suggesting that life may be difficult for Mr Aziz himself in the "democratic atmosphere" of Baghdad.

According to the reports, se curity men recently refused to let Mr Aziz leave Iraq with his wife and children. Officials at the frontier between Iraq and Jordan cootacted Presideot Saddam's office, which ordered that Mr Aziz could travel alooe but could not take his family. The Deputy Prime Minister re-turned to Baghdad.

Mr Aziz is a member of Iraq's Nestorian Christian minority and is fluent in English. He has functioned for years as a loyal interpreter to foreign diplomats of President Saddam's policies.

But even the strongest loyalties are being tested by five years of consistent military and economic pressure. An Iraqi military intelligence official, Colonel Shakir al-Juburi, is reported to have defected to Jordan after escaping from Iraq on a forged passport. He is the most senior intelligence officer to flee since the escape of Rafiq al-Samarrai, the former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who recently shared his experiences with viewers of a BBC television



You need to eat a variety of foods to get all the iron you need each day. If you're a normal healthy person, a lean, grilled rump steak (170g) will supply you with half your daily requirement. To get the same amount from raw spinach, you'd have to eat 680g of it. That's because your body absorbs at least twice as much iron from red meat than from an equivalent weight of spinach. Red meat also helps you absorb more iron from other foods, including spinach."

So, unless you have a very big appetite for spinach, what better excuse do you need to enjoy a tender, juicy steak?

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Israelis turn Jerusalem into a foreign country

PATRICK COCKBURN

A rally by Palestinian candidates at the Israeli checkpoint on the Mount of Olives was the first political eveot of the day. We told the taxi-driver to take us there, explaining we were going to a political demonstration. Another passenger, wearing the skullcap of a religious Jew, misunderstood our intentions.

He asked if we were going to a demonstration of Israeli settlers, protesting against a Pales-tinian election taking place in Jerusalem. He said he was a leader of the youth section of the right-wing Likud party, "but I am under strict orders not to get involved in anything".

Introducing himself as Jeremy Shock, an immigrant from Australia now working in the Jewish Agency, he said he was against the withdrawal from the West Bank. "I was told by Bibi Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, to do oothing." It was a confirmation that the Israeli right will not dare disrupt the elections tomorrow. It is too oervous of reminding voters about its role in the upsurge of

violence which culminated in the killing of Yitzhak Rabin.

As we dropped Mr Stock, he predicted trouble if the government started to compromise. A few minutes later, on the Mount of Olives, Hanan Ashrawi, the best-known independent standing for the Pales-tinian Council, was complaining about Israel- sealing off Jerusalem from the West Bank. Standing near the barrier where troops check Palestinians entering from the east, she said:

"Jerusalem is being strangled."

Israel has gone to bizarre lengths to emphasise the poil in Jerusalem is different. Ballot boxes are different from those on the West Bank and votes are to be counted in Ramallah, to give the impression that Palestimians in Jerusalem are postal voters living in a foreign land. In Salahudin Street, the main Palestinian commercial area, Majeda el-Batsh, sister of one of the candidates, Ahmed el-

tions with the candidate's picture. "The problem is there has been no election for 27 years and people have only a few weeks to campaign," she said

supporters to hand out carna-

Her brother, a former teacher who spent eight years in jail, is well known in the area and stands a good chance of winning one of the seven seats. though two are reserved for Christians. For many years a Fatah leader in Jerusalem, he is standing as an independent.

Yasser Arafat's decision to ignore many former Fatah militants and include other notables angered local Fatah leaders.

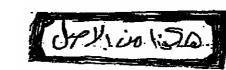


poll gives him 80% of yote

Some, like Mr Batsh, decided to stand anyway. This is hardly likely to damage Mr Arafat's chances of winning the presidency, though: a poll yesterday showed him winning 80 per cent of the vote.

Samiha Halil, his only opponent, held an indoor rally in east Jerusalem this week which failed to attract a single Palestinian: the audience consisted of reporters and international election monitors.

Not everybody in Salahudin street was enthusiastic about the election. A money-changer said: "I don't really care about all this. These candidates can promise to do things in the rest of the West Bank but not here. In Jerusalem oot one of them can deliver a licence to build a still in complete control." Batsh, had found a different way to campaign. She organised



Africa's scourge: In face of formidable prejudice, a Jesuit priest is looking for foster parents

Children fight back against Aids taboos

DAVID ORR

For Kevin Kamau, his mother's milk was not as nourishment it should have been. It was instead a poison potion which, after two years of breast-feeding, left

Today, the three-year-old orphan is one of 23 HIV-positive children living in a special cen-tre on the outskirts of Nairobi called Nyumbani - Swahili for "home". Malnourished and ailing, Kevin was taken to the centre by an aunt shortly after the death of his mother from Aids in 1994. Thanks to Dr Angelo d'Agostino and his team, the child is thriving.

Despite the sentence of death hanging over Kevin and other children at Nyumbani, Dr d'Agostino, an American psy-chiatrist and Jesuit priest, has decided that the time is right to launch a fostering programme is new to Africa and is fraught with difficulties in a cootingot where so many taboos still surround Aids and HIV infection.

"It's not going to be easy to get these kids fostered", says the grandfatherly Dr d'Agostino m a Boston twang which has still not deserted him after 15 years in Kenya. "These children are undoubtedly stigmatised. We couldn't even get parents to accept them attending the local school. But with education and understanding, I think the difficulties can be oversome. Caring for these children can be very rewarding."

Dr d'Agostino is no stranger to challenges. He launched Nyumbani - Kenya's only specialist hospice for HIV-positive orphans - three-and-a-half years ago with little funding or support. The government's Aids prevention programme is at best half-hearted and few resources are made available to battle the epidemic. He somehow keeps the centre running on donations from institutions, gifts from individuals and grants from Unicef and the World Health Organisation. The fostering programme, to be launched in the next month, is modelled on successful schemes in New York and Glasgow.

Although the rate of HIV infection is slowing in neighbouring Uganda, regarded as the continent's worst-affected country, in Kenya it continues 15 per cent of Kenya's hospital scourge of the continent.

beds are taken by Aids patients. There are more than 50,000 reported Aids cases hut most researchers think the fig-ure is three times as high. It is thought that as many as one millioo out of a population of 23

Somewhere between ten and twelve thousand children have been orphaned as a result of Aids in Kenya", says Dr d'Agostino. "If we had five centres like this there still wouldn't be enough room for them. By the end of the century, there'll be 120,000 children with HIV infection in this country".

All the children at Nyumbani have been abandoned. Most of their mothers came from slum areas and most, it is assumed, were prostitutes. Ironically, it is because they have been abandoned that they are now receiving such committed care.

All the children test HIV positive when they come to Nyumbani. A child born to an HIV-positive mother will automatically test positive, but oot all inherit the virus. Between the ages of 8 and 12 months, three out of four of the children test negative and can lead healthy lives. Unfortunately, those who remain in the community, even though not infected, usually die of neglect because of their

HIV-positive stigma.

As with adults, those who continue to test positive will succumb to Aids-related infections and die. The average life span of an HIV-positive child in Africa is between two and three

"We have a very good record", says Dr d'Agostino. Initially, I thought we'd have a death every few weeks. But we've shown that with good feeding and care they can live much longer - and, more importantly, have a good quality of life. We have two 13-year olds who are getting oo well".

Nyumbani has processed 115 children since it opened. Thirty of these are being cared for in a centre nearby. Those who ed. Twelve children have died. Among the vegetable plots behind Nyumbani are three tiny graves marked with crosses.

But at Nyumbani they prefer to measure success in the smiling faces around them, not in the numbers of early deaths which will occur in Africa for as to spiral out of control. Some loog as Aids remains the



Living positively: Kevin Kamau has HIV but Dr Angelo d'Agostino has given him hope

Chinese arrest doctor's brother

TERESA POOLE

Chinese security police have ar-rested the brother of Zhang Shuyun, the former Shanghai orphanage employee whose in-formation this month revealed the shocking death-toll among the city's orphans and abandoned children in recent years. The police also ransacked the brother's apartment, took money and confiscated jewellery left to Dr Zhang by her recently

deceased mother.
Zhang Jian, 44, was detained at his Shanghai home on 9 January, the day after foreign jour-nalists had been given an official tour of the city's orphanage to show how well children there are treated. Oo 15 January the family was formally told of his arrest and that he was accused of 'participating in the counter-revolutionary crime of sub-

verting the government". Such a charge carries a minimum sentence of 10 years, and was recently used against Photograph: David Orr | the prominent dissident Wei

Jingsheng, who was jailed for 14 years in December.

In the past few days, friends, relatives and former colleagues of Dr Zhang have been inter-rogated, the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday. On 7 January, HRW published a report on death-rates in China's orphanages, based on information provided by Dr Zhang and the Chinese government's Ministry of Civil Affairs statistics.

Dr Zhang left China in

Dr Zhaog left Chioa in March last year and smuggled out hundreds of medical records and documents on the death-toll in the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute between 1988 and 1992. Official investigations between 1989 and 1992, prompted by com-plaints by Dr Zhang and others, led to a high-level cover-up, according to the HRW report.

"[My brother] had nothing to do with my work or what I was try-ing to do. I didn't let my family or friends know because I thought it might place them in danger, Dr Zhang said yesterday.

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N.T. Rama Rao

N. T. Rama Rao is best known in India for having abandoned district. Ambitious, handsome his status as a film god to enter politics, and was three times voted chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, the state's highest elected office, most recently in

A popular screen actor from the south-castern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, "NTR" starred in over 320 Telugulanguage films, usually as a mythological Hindu god or hero. Among the rural poor, he had a massive following. Many of his awed, illiterate followers blurred the distinction between god and actor, and following his death shrines bave sprouted in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, where Rama Rao is worshipped as one of Hinduism's many deities. At least one of his followers committed suicide on bearing news of his death.

A populist, he was born into a poor farming family at Nim-



Barbara Jordan was the first

African-American to be elect-

cd to either house of the Unit-

ed States Congress since the

Reconstruction period imme-

In 1976 she was the first

black woman to be seriously

tial candidate by the Democratic

Party, and she twice gave the keynote address at Democrat-

ic national conventions, in 1976

Her greatest moment, how-

ever, came in 1974 as a mem-

ber of the judiciary committee

of the House of Representatives

during the hearings on the pos-

sible impeachment of Presi-

various excesses collectively

quence she stirred her col-

leagues and the national

television audience to share

her stern conception of the

committee's duty. Her fellow

With quiet but passionate elo-

known as "Watergate".

and again in 1992.

considered as a Vice-Presiden

diately after the Civil War.

makuru, in the state's Krishna and graced with a booming baritone, he quit his lowly job in the civil service and entered films while in his twenties. From his first part, a walk-on as a police officer in Mana Desam (1949), for which he was paid 500 rupees (today about £10 sterling), he became one of the cinema-crazed state's hest-known idols. Wide-shouldered, flamboyant and with a proud, hawkish face, Rama Rao made as good a villain as he did a hero, but he is best known for his portrayals of the two gods Krishna and Rama.

During the Sixties, his fame reached such a pitch that his fans would clash outside theatres with gangs owing alle-giance to rival film stars. One of his films during this period, Shri Venkateshwara Mahayam (1960) evoked such reverence that Rama Rao's followers erected makeshift shrines inside the cinema balls to pray before and after the screening.
His last film paved his entry

mto politics. In The Lion of Bobbili (1982), Rama Rao plays an army officer who turns into an idealist fighting against the corrupt government. On his 60th hirthday, while The Lion of Bobbili was still filling cinema halls across the state, Rama Rao launched a new political party, the Telugu Desam. Using cin-ema tricks, he travelled Andhra Pradesh campaigning from a makeshift van fitted with lights. a powerful public address system and a bed. In 90 days, he

from pressing impeachment by fear of appearing partisan. Her

intervention is reckoned to

have been decisive in persuad-

ing the committee to recom-

mend that impeachment

proceedings should go forward.

signed, Jordan said, she, as a

black woman, was not included.
"I felt somehow," she said wrily,
"that George Washington and
Alexander Hamilton just left me

out by mistake." But, through

the process of amendment.

interpretation and court deci-

sion she was finally one of "We

the people". "Today," she said,

"I am an inquisitor, and I be-

the solemnness that I feel right

now to say my faith in the Con-

stitution is whole, it is total, and

I am not going to sit here and

be an idle spectator to the

diminution, the destruction of

"As if speaking from tablets

the Constitution."

dent Richard Nixon for the lieve it would not ... overstate

When the Constitution was

Democrats had been held back of stone," as her fellow Demo-



covered 35,000 kilometres, a feat he claimed was a world record. He said he owed this feat of endurance to yoga. The appearance of the state's most popular film idol so mesmensed villagers in Andhra Pradesh, many of whom bad never seen television or electricity, that Rama Rao's fledgling party, despite its political inexperience. won an overwhelming majority. Hundreds of thousands

crat Senator Lloyd Bentsen re-

called, in her strong voice with

a Texas accent clipped for effect,

she concluded with a peroration

that exactly expressed what

tens of millions of Americans

felt. "If the impeachment pro-

vision in the Constitution will

not reach the offences charged

here, then perbaps that 18th-

century Constitution should be abandoned to a 20th-century paper-shredder."

In 1976 she featured on a

longish list of people who were

being considered as possible

Vice-Presidential candidates by

Jimmy Carter and his advisers

before she gave her keynote

speecb at the Democratic con-

vention. Polls at that point

showed that her presence on the

ticket would lose Carter more

votes than she would hring to

him. When she spoke, howev-

er, her "rolling rhetoric", as one

reporter put it, aroused huge en-

thusiasm in the audience. A ma-

of supporters witnessed his swearing-in as chief minister. During his three terms as chief minister, be proved as durable a politician as he had

Barbara Jordan

schemes of selling rice for two shmi Parvathi, a teacher - was rupees a kilo, building bouses for the poor and reserving more university places for warmen may have nearly bankrupted the state treasury but did win him votes. He was one of the few op-position politicians to stand up against the often wrathful Indira Gandhi, then premier.

After the death of his first

wife in 1984, Rama Rao's godly lustre faded. A high court found him guilty of corruption and nepotism and his party was thrashed in the 1989 assembly polls. His comeback in 1994 - with a new and far been an actor. His populist younger bride at his side, Lak-

marred by family feuds. His numerous children hated their stepmother and her influence on the often sickly Rama Rao. He was ousted as chief minister last August by his own son-in-law, Chandrababu Naidu. The prime minister, Nara-

simba Rao, described him as "a man of many parts - a learned and deeply religious person, a very fine and powerful actor who swayed millions of people, a forceful orator and above all, a man of the masses." Rama Rao was also chairman of the leftist National Front, an alliance of leftist and regional par-

and ber magnificent presence and delivery, touched off re-newed calls for her to run with

. When Senator Walter Mon-

dale was chosen instead, she

campaigned actively for Carter

and worked successfully with Jesse Jackson and other hlack

eaders to register large num-

pers of new black voters. The

next year, however, she sur-prised political Washington by

From 1979 she taught at the

Lyndon B. Johnson School of

ty of Texas in Austin, where she

green dress, her father had to leave. I didn't want to wake

been a Baptist minister, and she up one fine summy morning and spoke with the exciting say there is nothing else that cadences of generations of Barbara Jordan can do."

She ended by quoting Abra-ham Lincoln: "As I would not Public Affairs at the Universi-

three two-year terms. The longer you stay in Coheress.

she explained. The harder it is Barbara Charline Jordan, politi-

was immensely popular with stu-dents. In 1992 she again gave interest in National Policy 1982-96; died 17 January 1996.

Carter, but it was not to be.

ties. "What is destined to happen will happen. Victory and defeat are like light and darkness," he laughed on the day when his own family toppled him, in a drama that for many Indians was nearly as spellbinding as Rama Rao's performances as mythological hero.

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, actor and politician: born Nim-makuru, India 29 March 1923; makuri, inda 29 fedicin 1925; founder and first President, Tel-ugu Desam Party 1982; Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh 1983-89, 1994-95; wice married; died Hyderabad 18 January 1996.

the keynote speech at the De-

mocratic convention and again

she struck the right note, this

time a call for reconciliation.

"We need to change the de-

caying inner cities from decay

to places where hope lies," she

said. "We must be prepared to

answer Rodney King's haunting

(King was a black motorist

whose beating by the police,

captured on videotape, set off the 1993 Los Angeles riots.) T

: February 1936; Member (De-

mocratic), Texan Senate 1966-72;

Member, House of Representa

tives 1973-78; Lyndon B. John-son Public Service Professor,

University of Texas, Austin 1979 82, Lyndon B. Johnson Centen

question, 'Can we get along?'

Ian **Dawson-Shepherd**

Ian Dawson-Shepherd was perhaps the greatest campaigner and friend of cerebrally palsied people and their parents. Thanks to the work of the Spastics Society, which he founded in 1952, attitudes towards cerebral palsy have changed dra-matically, so that while before the 1950s it was rare even to see a person with cerebral palsy in blic, they now have opporfunities everywhere in society.

Dawson-Shepherd was born at Port Said, Egypt, the son of an official in the Colonial Service. He attended London University and in 1939 joined the army. Commissioned into the King's Regiment (Liverpool), he was seriously wounded in North Africa and was invalided out of the Army in 1944.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, Dawson-Shepherd had a daughter, Rosemary, who was severely disabled by cerebral palsy. The condition occurs when the riny part of the brain controlling movement has been damaged: each cerebrally palsied child is differently handicapped according to the number of brain cells damaged. Disabilities can range from total incapacity (all four limbs out of control, great difficulty with speaking) to just one side of the body being slightly affected.

At the time, there was a chronic lack of information and support for parents of cerebrally palsied children, and the stigma parents often felt was attached to the condition translated into a tendency to keep those with cerebral palsy ont of sight. Em-ployment was not considered

even as a remote possibility. In the 1940s, parents with severely disabled cerebrally palsied children at St Margaret's, Croydon, then the only school for such children in Britain; realised that no provision had been made for their children's further education. It was late in 1951 that Ian Dawson-Sbepherd, together with two other parents, Alex Moir and Eric Hodgson, and Jean Garwood, a social worker, began campaigning for some provision to be made. They placed letters in the press which prompted over 600 replies in three weeks. Dawson-Shepherd then called the parents togeth-

er and they decided to campaign for schools, training and work

sannouncing that she would stand down from Congress and go home to Texas after only a resounding yes."

The 1993 Los Angeles riors.) "I say we answer that question with a resounding yes." centres. Their efforts resulted in the stational. stammer. Dawson-Shepherd was undoubtedly the motivator who ensured the tremendous success that followed. From the moment he flung a £5 note on the table and issued a challenge to raise a million pounds in five years, local groups of parents took up the cudgels and money flooded in. Vital services were provided; schools, residential centres and work centres were established; and as funds increased, social workers

were employed to assist the eventual 250 local groups of parents and volunteers. Work training, together with a campaign for placing in jobs, followed. Fund-raising was so successful that the total of £1m (fantastic in the 1950s) was reached in four and a half years. In spite of working as In-

ternational Marketing Director of the drugs firm Aspro-Nicholas (he comed the advertising alogan "one degree under" for Aspro's aspirin tablets), Dawson-Shepherd still found time in 1960 to persuade the Spastics Society to fund a Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital. This unit has proved a marked success in discovering reasons for many causes of cerebral palsy.

...

Medical research was Dawson-Shepherd's overriding concern. When he was in his mid-seventies - in failing bealth - and he felt that further research into the causes of neurological disorders was required, he started work all over again. In 1990, gathering together a group of eminent medical scientists headed by the President of the World Federation of Neurology, Professor Richard Marlandus, be formed the Little Foundation (named after Dr William Little who first diagnosed "Spasticity" in the last century). The foundation is now looking to fund a £100m research programme into causes

of neurological disorders. Like all great pioneers lan Dawson-Shepherd could be dogmatic difficult to deal with, but such was the measure of the man that all who knew him respected and admired him. He was a fighter to the end, still asking the almost impossible from all around him. Shortly before his death he was seeking funds for yet another project, this time looking into the problems of mu-



trition and its pre-natal effect upon babies.

In 1995, under pressure from people with cerebral palsy who tudes which had become associated with the word "spastic", the name of the Spastics Society was changed to Scope. Typically Dawson-Shepherd gave the move his full support.

I am the person with cerebral

chose to head the Spastics Soabout by war wounds, and a ciety campaign for jobs was elected Chairman, and he. 1950s. He was a great iconoclast. and he had a great sense of humour, never more so than when, in 1963, as a member of the original council I chased him through the snow to hring him hack to a meeting after he bad "resigned" because we had refused to sanction an order for 6 million Christmas cards which be bad already placed. He thought this very funny, especially visualising me with my ungainly gait, and so did L.

He was married twice. His second wife Margaret K. Johns, the film producer, survives him as do five of his daughters. Sadly, his disabled daughter, who was the sole reason for his work, died in 1986.

William Hargreaves Ian Douglas Dawson-Shenherd charity worker, born Port Said, Egypt 23 September 1915;

founder and chairman, Nation-

al Spastics Society (Scope) 1951-

60; twice married (five daughters.

and one daughter deceased):

died London 8 January 1996.

Samuel Rosenberg

The dcath (though not yet the resurrection) of Samuel Rosenberg has occurred in New York.

The presence of Friedrich Nictzsche at the Reichenbach Falls in 1877 was the premiss for Rosenberg's theory that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based the character of Professor Moriarty on the German philosopher and that Doyle's detective stories were the "pre-Freudian psycho-dramatic confessions" of a "self-revealing affectorist".

His findings were published

in 1974 by Bohbs Merrill (or Boobs Merrill as he referred to them). The book, Naked is the Best Disguise: the death and resurrection of Sherlock Holmes, enjoved great success in America (where it sold over 25,000 copies in hardback and was on the "Book-of-the-Month" list for several months), and there was success of a different sort in England where Desmond Elliott of Arlington Books was forced to remainder many thousand copies to the delight of be-

mused Sherlockians, who were

able to purchase them for as little as 50p a copy.

Although never an invested Baker Street Irregular and often scornful of "orthodox Sherlockian ducks" and "Bakerstreetniks", he contributed an expanded version of a chapter of his book to Beyond Baker Street (1976), gave several lec-tures on the "Conan Doyle syndrome", and wrote introductions to facsimile editions of The Hound of the Baskervilles and The Return of Sherlock Holmes published in 1975.

He was born in Cleveland and was an omnivorous reader (omnivorous in more senses than one - his friend Buckminster Fuller described the 6ft 3in, 21-stone Rosenberg as "history's most massive reader"). He first came to New York in the 1930s, when he worked in the theatre. During the Second World War be was employed as a photo-analyst for the Office of Strategic Services and afterwards served as an official pho-

sontbern black preachers.

be a slave, so I would not be a

master. This expresses my idea

of democracy." That sentiment,

found his true calling as a literary consultant for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, by whom be was engaged on account of his prodigious memory to check for plagiarism (a talent which led him to suggest, among other things, that Conan Doyle may have lifted simple sentences from translations made after his death of the works of German philosophers be had not read).

His other essays and studies concentrated on characters such tographer at the birth of the United Nations. In the 1960s he an article in Life magazine in

Advisory Service; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord

Justice Thorpe); 17 January 1996

financial loss.

1968), Herman Melville, St Nicbolas, Perseus, Dr Albert Schweitzer, Lot's wife, James Joyce, Medusa, and Sigmund Freud, but it is for his book on Sberlock Holmes - which was not so much "resurrection" as "desecration" – that he will be best remembered.

Richard Lancelyn Green Samuel Rosenberg, writer: born Cleveland, Ohio 1910; married Angela Nizzardini (one daugh-ter); died New York 5 January

19 Jamary 1996 ceedings against BPAS alleging

A doctor who advised a man, following a vasectomy, that the operation was successful and no contraception needed to be used to avoid pregnancy, did not owe a duty of care to the man's future sexual partner who was told of the advice, became pregnant and claimed

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the defen-dant, BPAS, and struck out the niaintiff's claim.

In 1988 the plaintiff, a 40-Lord Justice Peter Gibson said year-old teacher who was divorced and had one son. a vasectomy on a man could not realistically be described as commenced a sexual relationemployed to confer a benefit on ship with a man who informed her that he had had a successform of avoiding pregnancy. Still less could he be so deful vasectomy in 1984 arranged by BPAS who had advised him, after semen tests in 1985, that scribed when he was giving adhe no longer needed to use any operation. method of contraception. The plaintiff consulted her own GP who told ber that there was a

For the plaintiff to have a sustainable case in negligence for financial loss arising from reliance on advice given by traceptive coil. In 1989 the Bpas, there must a proximity or relationship between the giver of the advice and the person who neted on it.

How BPAS knew or should his, that is a member of an inhave known that its advice determinately large class of

would be communicated to the plaintiff and relied on by her as a warranty of permanent infertility when she did not commence the sexual relationship until three years later was not apparent. It was not

pleaded that BPAS expected communication of its advice to the man's sexual partners nor that BPAS was alerted that the advice would be passed on to sexual partners. It was not alleged nor could

it reasonably be alleged that BPAS knew that its advice when communicated to the plaintiff was likely to he acted on by her without independent be struck out. inquiry. BPAS could know nothing about the likely course of action of future partners.

BPAS was not in a sufficient or any special relationship with the plaintiff such as gave rise to a duty of care. It could not properly be said that BPAS voluntarily assumed responsibility to the plaintiff when giving advice to the man. At that time, she was not an existing partner but was merely, like any other woman in the world, a potential future sexual partner of

al relations with the man during his lifetime.

It was impossible to believe that the policy of the law was or should be to treat so tenuous a relationship between the adviser and the advisec as givmg rise to a duty of care.

It was beyond belief that in ceasing to use any contraceptive method, the plaintiff was induced by and relied on the man's bare assertion to her that he had had a vasectomy and could not have any children. given that she only removed her contraceptive coil after taking advice from her GP. She took the risk that there was a small possibility of pregnancy.
The plaintiff's claim would

Lord Justice Thorpe, concurring, said that the plaintiff was no nearer the doctor adviser than one who some three and haif years after the operation commenced a sexual relationship with his patient. The class to which the plaintiff belonged was potentially excessive m size and uncertain in character. The adviser's state of knowledge militated against

Land

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

the plaintiff. Finally the

plaintiff failed the test of

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

BATE: On 8 January, in hospital, Regi-nald Francis Bate, (Regl. aced 73 years, Funeral service, St Peter's Church, Ealing, 29 January at 11,30am, Please, no flowers, but do nations instead to John Groom's or Injured Jockeys Fund. All enquiries to P. Ryan and Daughter, telephone

FELLOWS: Howard Alwyn, of Sproughton, ipswich, and formerly of Felsted, on 14 January 1996, suddenly but peacefully whilst on holiday. Husband of the late Dorece and of Margaret, father of William, David. Nuriolas and Andrew. A much-loved and devoted husband, lather, step-lather and grandfather who will be saffy missed. Funeral arrangements to be annunced later. to be announced later.

RASCHID: Fatinta (Daw Thoung May), aged S5, in Quincy, Pennsylvania, on Theodoy 16 January. Beloved wife of the late Burmese Muslim leader U Raschid. IndeLitigable champion of the poor, the sick and the oppressed, President of the National Council of Women in Burma. Mother of Mr Bi-dl Ruschid architect of Med and Vi-Women in Burma. Mourer or far se-lal Raschid, architect, of McLean, Vir-ginis, and Dr Salman Raschid psychotrast, of Hampstead, London. Greatly adored mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The paper. er and great-grandmother. The am (funeral) will take place. God will in Karachi, Pakistan - where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. Rahmatullah-alahuma; may the mer-cy of God be upon them. For further information confact Mrs Rose Raschid (Daw Tin Tin Sann) at the Burmess Section, BBC World Service.

For Gazette, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Birthdays

Mr Desi Arnaz Jnr, actor, 43; Mr Peter Atkinson MP, 53; Miss Nina Bawdeo, oovelist, 71; Mr Dewey Bunnell, rock musician, 45; The Earl of Carnaryon, honorary racing manager to the Queen, 72, Sir Jonathan Clarke, former circuit judge, 66; Mr Michael Crawford, actor and singer, 54; Mr Bernard Dunstan, painter, 76; Mr Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 30; Mr Rod Evans, rock singer, 51; Mr Phil Everly, rock singer, 57; Mr Wal-ter Goldsmith, chairman, Betterware. 58: Mr William Hayden, former chairman and chief executive, Jaguar, 67; Mr Hans Hotter, bass haritone, 87: Sir Alex Jarratt, former chairman, Smiths Industries, 72, Mr Richard Lester, film director, 64; Brigadier Helen Meechie, former director of the WRAC, 58; Mr David Newbigging, chairman, Ivory & Sime, 62: Mr Nigel Nicolson, former MP and author, 79; Mr Robert Palmer, rock singer and guitarist, 47; Miss Dolly Parton, country music singer, 50: Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, former Secretary-General of the UN, 76; Mr Bryan Pringle, actor, 61; Sir Simen Rattle, cooductor, 41; Mr Charles Smith, managing director, Chevron UK, 66; Sir John Stanley MP, 54; Mr Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 47; Mr Gary Titley MEP, 46; Mr David Tredeonick MP, 46; The Earl of Wemyss and March, former president, National Trust for Scot-

Anniversaries

Births: James Watt, inventor of the modern condensing steam engine. 1736: Edgar Allao Poe, author and poet, 1809; Paul Cezanne, painter. 1839. Deaths: William Congreve, playwright. 1729; Pietre-Joseph Proudhon, journalist and socialist,

1865; Auguste-Ferdinand François Mariette, Egyptologist, 1881. On this day: King Edward III established the Order of the Garter, 1348; an explosion occurred at Woolwich Arseoal, the East London munitions factory, with 450 casualties, 1917; In-dira Gandhi became prime minister of India, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Abachum and Audifax, S Albert of Cashel, St Canute IV of Denmark, St Charles of Sezze, St Fillan or Foelan, Si Germanicus, Si Henry of Uppsala, Saints Marius and Martha, Si Messalina, Si Nathalan

Lord O'Brien of Lothbury

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord O'Brien of Lothbury GBE PC FRCM will be held in the Chapel A service of thank of the Order of the British Empire. the Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral, Lou-don EC4, at 11.30am on Thursday 14 March. Those attending are requested to take their seats by 11.15am. For further information, lact the Assistant Secrelary, Bank of England.

Dr H. K. Prescot A service of thanksgiving for the life of Kelsall Prescot will be held on Friday 23 February in Eton College Chapel at 2.45pm.

Derek and Gwen

A Thanksgiving Service for Derek Barton Kimber OBE and Gwen Kimber will be held on Friday 9 February 1996 at St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Street, London

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Sec. retary of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens, London SWI, in honour of Mr Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign

Dinners HM Covernment

Mr lan Lang MP, President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a dinper held vesterday at Lancaster se, London SW1, in honour of Mr Ali Alatas, Indonesian Foreign

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Subbath

begins in London at 4.12pm. United Synagognes: 0171-387 4360. Federation of Synagognes: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagognes: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagognes of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congressions 0171-280 tuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Sygngogue (Ma-sorti): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Stowart, Chairman, International Coun-cil, the Duke of Edinburgh is Award International al Association, wasts Castelaws College to more Galore puritainents and leaders at Castelaw, Coun-ty Mayor, Ireland; and as Chairman, International at Castela, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Asportation, anisath a Gauste re-ception and launcheou at Asthord Cherk, Consti-Mano, Ireland. The Princess Royal visus the Re-public of Ireland.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Opena's Life Guard at Horse Guards

claim after vasectomy struck out Pregnancy Goodwill v British Pregnan

LAW REPORT

that it was in breach of its duty of care to her in failing to warn the man of the possibility of spontaneous reversal and to advise the use of contraceptive. protection. She claimed damages for financial loss. Judge Paul Clark refused BPAS's application to strike out the

Roger Stewart (Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) for BPAS: Cherie Booth QC (Linnell) for the plaintiff.

that the doctor who performed the man's sexual partners in the vice on tests after the

الهدامن الرحل

minute chance of getting preg-

nant. She ceased to use a con-

vasectomy underwent sponta-

neous reversal. The plaintiff be-

came pregnant and she gave

The plaintiff brought pro-

birth to a daughter.

Stakeholding is this week's buzzword. Is it really a departure, or just a new recipe for old ingredients, asks Yvette Cooper

eur on-Shephe O: Why is everyone suddenly so obsessed with "stakeholding?" Because 10 days ago Labour leader Tony Blair launched it as his Big Idea Addressing businessmen in Singa-pore, he said: "The economics of the centre and centre left today should he geared to the creation of the stake-holder economy, which involves all our people, not a privileged few."

Labour's spin doctors announced that stakeholding would be the theme for the general election campaign. Conservative Central Office launched a counter-attack. Last night in Derby. Blair made another speech about it and further announcements are planned in coming months.

O. So what does it mean? That's the problem; no one is quite

Q. Well Blair must be clear about it. He says so, hut most people are still puzzled. Blair said it was a unifying theme for Labour policies, many of them already well known. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, says it's about giving people opportunities to work and to get training. Majorie Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, said stakeholding just meant an economy based around "people".

Q It sounds very vague. Is there any

Yes. There are lots of specific ideas and policies about the economy, the way that companies run, the way the welfare state operates and our role

as citizens and consumers. All these over it for a long time. In his leadideas can lay claim to the term

Q. Where did it all start?

The Oxford English Dictionary doesn't shed much light on the origins of stakeholding. It describes a stakeholder as a bookmaker – an independent party with whom each of those who makes a wager deposits the money". A more evocative image of a stakeholder is one of the brave New World settlers, staking out their territory and huilding new lives. Having a stake means owning something and being able to decide what 10 do with it.

The term has become fashionable recently partly because the term "stakeholder capitalism" was popularised by Will Hutton, the Guardian's assistant editor, in his best selling book The State We're In. Other exponents of similar ideas include John Kay, chairman of London Economics, and Charles Handy, the management guru, who have applied the idea to the way companies work. They say successful companies do not just serve their shareholders, but they also look after everyone who has a stake in the company's success: workers, managers, customers and suppliers as well as shareholders.

Q. So Blair pinched the idea from management books? No Blair's version of stakeholding includes ideas picked from all over the place, and he has been mulling

ership manifesto 18 months ago he lamented that social cohesion and a sense of responsibility was undermined when millions did not have a

stake in society. Blair is using the stakeholding as a phrase - not a catchy one - to sum up these ideas. The first is that gov-

holding is meant to encourage

people to stand on their

own two feet. It is not

meant to be a

recipe for more

state micrven-

ernment policy must be aimed at giving everyone opportunities to work, learn, to train and to improve themselves. That gives them a stake in society. The second theme is that, in return, people must take more responsibility for themselves. Stake-

gapore Blair said: "If people feel they have no stake in society, they feel little responsibility towards it and little inclination to work for it's

Q. It still sounds very waffly, what does it mean in practice? What would atakeholding mean for the

The first thing Blair means by it, is tackling unemployment: giving people a stake in the economy, on this count, basically means giving them a joh. And Labour has a long list of

policies for the long-term unemployed and the young unemployed, ranging from new training to subsidies to private employers that take them on. If Labour's policies could really achieve all they promise, a stakeholder economy would be one in which no young person remained without training or work - and hence without a stake - for more

ing people a greater stake in the company that employs them?

from good communication to sharing the financial spoils through employee share-ownership schemes or workers councils, depending on how radical you are. John Lewis, the retailer, is probably the best known model of a

what a pure "stakeholder" company might be like: it's a partnership that is largely owned by its employees. And there are smaller firms such as Baxi, the boiler manufacturers, in which 100 per cent of shares are

owned by employees.

Labour doesn't want all companies to be like this, but it does want them to involve more of their workers through share ownership. Yesterday, for example,

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, was promoting Employee Share Ownerhsip Plans. Labour is looking at how employees might exert more influence over their investments in companies through pension funds, by making the funds account more openly for the decisions they make.

Q. Will companies be forced to do this sort of thing? Unlikely. Blair made clear in his Sin-

gapore speech that much of the responsibility for change lies with the companies themselves: "We cannot by legislation guarantee that a company will behave in a way conducive to trust and long-term commitment. But it is surely time to assess how we shift the emphasis in corporate ethos ... towards a vision

of the company as a community" Q. Sounds fine, but surely it will just let the Trade Unions in through the back door? Some union leaders might see it that way and in the past week the Conservatives have alleged that stakeholding is just a disguise for a return

than six months. Q. Jobs. Is that all? What about giv-

to corporatism. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, described it as "a deal under which Labour's old friends in the trade union movement would get back all the power and privileges they abused in the Seventies". Blair and Stakeholding can mean anything Brown deny this. Brown said this week: "A stakeholder Britain is not a statist Britain ... Tony Blair and I have made it absolutely clear that we will not go back to the old corporatist agenda." The new stakeholders that Labour wants to appeal to are indi-viduals rather than institutions.

Q. Is the idea confined to the econ-

omy and business?
Far from it. If anything, the most detailed policy proposals that Blair includes in the stakeholder theme are about the reform of the welfare state and education. Next month he will make a speech about what stakeholding will mean for people's political rights. The clearest example of a stakeholding Labour policy is the idea of an "individual learning account", shortly to be outlined by Education spokesman David Blunkett. The account would be a way of showing people, perhaps through vouchers to spend on training, what each individual was entitled to in adult education. This would allow them more choice over where and when to learn. The Labour idea is that this would give people more of a sense of ownership over their education, rather than passively consuming whatever the state provides.

Q. What would a stakeholder welfare state look like?

Labour's Social Security spokesman Chris Smith is reported to be con-sidering some radical ideas drawn from the Far East. At its most waffly this could mean people feeling more attached to the welfare state in the way they feel proud of the NHS. But different way of discussing them.

a idea Tony

there is a hard edge to the idea. It is that if people claim benefits, they must give something back to society. Labour accepts that long-term dependence on benefits is demoralising and self-perpetuating. It wants to use the benefits system to encourage people to become more self-reliant. So, for instance, unemployed people below the age of 25 would be offered several options for

work and training if they were to continue getting benefits. If they turned these down, benefits would be cut. Another idea is about pensions. Some Labour modernisers believe that the state should legislate to encourage people to save to cover periods of unemployment and provide for their old age. The general principle is that the state should encourage individuals to make the right choices about their pensions and their education, rather than to

Q. What about our stake in the political system?

step in to do the joh for them.

Blair has said little about this. although he intends to make a speech on stakeholding and constitutional reform next month. Giving everyone a real political stake means allowing people to participate more directly in political decision-making: it could mean anything from greater regional democracy to more referendums.

Q. So does stakeholding amount to a new departure or is just a way of dressing up existing pulicies.

Most of the ideas Blair is talking about using the stakeholder idea are very familiar. He hopes stakeholding will provide more coherence to existing themes and policies. The concept of "stakeholding" alone fails to answer the important questions about whether Labour is fit to govern. Will Labour reform the welfare state and restrain public spending? Will it deliver on its low tax pledges? Does it really helieve in the market and bow much will it use the state to

intervene? The terminology of stake-

holding doesn't help us answer any

of these questions, it is largely just a

the individual can thrive. That is what the stakeholder economy is all about.



Darcy was in denial, OK?

102.00 2 - Z.

> Jane Austen, according to the movie magazine Premiere. is now seen in Hollywood as the 19th-century equivalent of Quentin Tarantino. Presumably, they envisage such magic moments as Darcy resplendent in sunglasses and zoot suit telling Elizabeth: "Your mother is lacking in wit. I shall with your permission waste the hitch."

McGrath offers a novel reasoning for Americans colonising Austen on film. "The people of Woody Allen and Jane Austen are not so far apart," he says. "They are all chite, comfortable people, socially conscious and representing the wit of the time rather than the action. You don't have to have read Jane Austen to understand the social habits.

The story is all about life." Emma as a Woody Allen film? Well, Mr Knightley is a lot older than Emma. He thought he had a lot to teach her, yet



Gwyneth Paltrow: star in an, er, Woody Allen-style Emma

it seems, falling over each other to adapt the Austen oeuvre. The blonde American starlet Gwyneth Paltrow is soon to star as the brunette. English Emma, directed by Douglas McGrath. co-writer of the Woody Allen film Bullets Over Broadway.

Generation Why

Tony Reeve and Steve Way

underneath he is a little unsure of himself. And the country dancing scenes could always be modified to a jazz quintet. But the McGrath film might yet hit a major snag. There is no record of Mr Knightley going into analysis.

I'M HAVING SECOND

WHOLE BYPASS PROTEST, TANYA.

Heroes only

A question. Whn are "Saxon-Norman thugs"? Why, the Government, of course, according to the Four Weddings and a Funeral actor Kenneth Griffith, who will be in Cardiff tonight to address a Sinn Fein rally. "As

a Welsh democrat I am going to Cardiff to state very firmly that Britain is entirely in the wrong and Sinn Fein is entirely in the right," he tells me earnestly. Griffith, whose cameo in

Four Weddings is in the cast list as "mad old man", has asked Gerry Adams in advance of tonight's meeting if he can join Sinn Fein. Adams told him: "You don't have to join. You are already a memher of the

Republican family."
As a director, Griffith claims only to make films about heroes". His Sixties film Hang Out Your Brightest Colours, about the IRA's funnding father, Michael Collins, was banned for 21 years. As well as Collins, his heroes' gallery includes the unlikely gathering of Thomas Paine, Nehru and Zola Budd.

That figures

Peter Bruinvels, the diminutive former MP for Leicester, who once notoriously volunteered to be the public hangman, has already shot himself in the foot in his new role as Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Wrekin.

Yesterday he delivered his

IT'S ALWAYS MORE COMPLICATED

11th press release of the year, on the subject of local unemployment, which he said had fallen. This latest drop in unemployment figures is good news for the people of Wrekin, employers and employees alike, for the county of Shropshire and for the country," he maintained on local radio.

Listeners at the Central Office of Information, however, were mystified. Unemployment figures for the Wrekin have actually gone up, no matter how many ways you slice the area up.
"The figures have risen from

3,622 in November to 3,654 now," a spokesman said yes-terday. "We found what Bruinvels had to say most amusing." The man himself sticks by his

calculations. "I am not wrong, confidence.

Noakes poke Shep, the trusted companion of

John Noakes, the former Blue Peter presenter, may have barked his last some years back, but his master is suddenly active on all fronts. Not only has Noakes at the age of 62 recorded his first single, "Sheep Dip Disco", which features his tender rebuke to the late sheepdog. "Get down, Shep!" - he has also signed up for the Government and is fronting an advertising campaign for the DTI's "Smart" competition, which awards money to small husinesses to help produce innovative product ideas.



Here. I have to tell him, he may have been fleeced. A DTI spokesman cheerily confided to me: "We paid John less than the going rate."

he maintained with supreme Page 31 girls

How to insult a girl without really trying: the *Daily Express* flagged on its front page yes-terday: "Your Practical Guide to Plastic Surgery", page 31. Turn to page 31 and there is a full-page spread on Channel 4's The Girlie Show with a glamorous photograph of its three stars, one of whom is holding up her blouse to draw attention to her bosom.

This, I respectfully assume, is not the practical guide to plastic surgery, which in fact turns up elsewhere in the

Can a girl sue because of a faulty cross-reference? Case law is silent on this.

Eagle Eye





TOTTENHAM OUT AD WILL TUNGGATE GUILDISCHE HEALTS CALE NEW STORE CHICA CERNIAL AND LET A

THAN YOU THINK. ALL THIS HASSLE ... ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THING? I HEAN ... TROUGHTS ABOUT THE

DEPENDENT

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Old ghosts Blair must lay to rest

Tony Blair is trying hard to make vot-ers feel safe. Last night in a speech in Derby he addressed the deep insecurities that people across all classes feel about losing their jobs, poverty in old age and crime.
The balm he offered was his "stakeholder economy", which he summed up as "a strong cohesive society in which the individual can thrive".

It was a short, vague speech that offered little detail. Mr Blair's alleged big idea has a warm, reassuring feel, this notion that everyone should be included and given opportunities. The trouble is that it also provokes insecurities of an entirely different kind. Those worries are that this talk of stakeholding merely disguises old-fashioned Labour policies and that it will be used by the trade unions to get back some of the powers they lost in the 1000.

Mr Blair needs to dispel those doubts if the message of "stakeholding" - however vague and convoluted - is to get through to the average, middle-income oters he wants to woo. It was their swing to Margaret Thatcher that put the Tories into power, and it is their disillusionment with the Conservatives today that could

let Mr Blair into Downing Street. Many of these voters, particularly in the south, were won over by Thatcherism's message of competition and the survival of the fittest, the offer of choice and the call to rely more on themselves and less on the state, In the Nineties that dream has turned sour. Managers, bank workers, professionals - they have all felt the chill of redundancies. House prices plunged. The middle classes have become

So today everyone - even the Lahour party - may accept that the rigours of global competition are inescapable, even desirable. We cannot turn the clock back

vis nationalisation or protectionism. But this creed of the Eighties is no longer enough. People want to know there is a way to recover if they become casualties of change. They want to be able to pick themselves up, dust themselves down, learn a new skill

Mr Blair is offering some answers. For example, yesterday he spoke of "individ-ual learning accounts", a sum which people could save with the state's help but then choose themselves how to spend on their own training. Individual ownership be it of training or pensions - rather than state paternalism, seems to be the healthy direction of Mr Blair's thinking.

But he has not fully realised how his

party still scares those he wants to reas-sure. Those middle-class voters he cultivates are easily frightened that Labour favours old-style Seventies corporatism and a resurgence of union power.

These fears were dismissed last night. Mr Blair declared that the stakeholder economy "is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to you, the individual."

He may be sincere in his protestations. But his supporters are less convincing. This week, Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, talked about 'social and economic partnerships", which sounded suspiciously like the oldstyle corporatism that smothered enterprise. John Monks. the TUC leader, thinks stakeholding will underpin union collective bargaining. Mr Blair heads a party in which many have yet to be converted to Blairism. Only when voters are convinced that New Labour has completely buried its past, will Mr Blair be able adequately to address middle-class insecurity. And that is the key to the gen-

Mr Robinson's Forte flutter

Cerry Robinson, chief executive of the There is little room for sentiment in the hle. Eighteen months ago he won control of London Weekend Television, ousting the popular chief executive Greg Dyke and freeing up an unwilling Sir Christopher Bland for an eventual role as the next chairman of the BBC. Both the hid and the way it was conducted left a nasty taste in many mouths. People wanted to know why a successful management team was dumped by institutional investors who

could not he sure of the consequences. Today Mr Rohinson is locked in the final stages of a hattle for the Forte Group, with its chief executive Sir Rocco Forte resisting Granada's claims that Forte is a badly managed "sleeping giant" that only Granada's managerial kiss can fully awake.

Sir Rocco's friends and supporters retort that Granada's bid will leave it burdened with nearly £4bn of debt, and it will be forced to sell off the best parts of a husiness that has been painstakingly assembled over the years. The hid is little more than an asset-stripping operation, launched by a management with a successful hut short track record.

Forte, by contrast, is a name to conjure with. Many who respect the achievement of Sir Rocco's father, a poor Glaswegian who pulled himself up from nothing, are appalled by the way this could be dismantled on the say-so of one or two large pension-fund managers. By next Tuesday we will know who has finally prevailed.

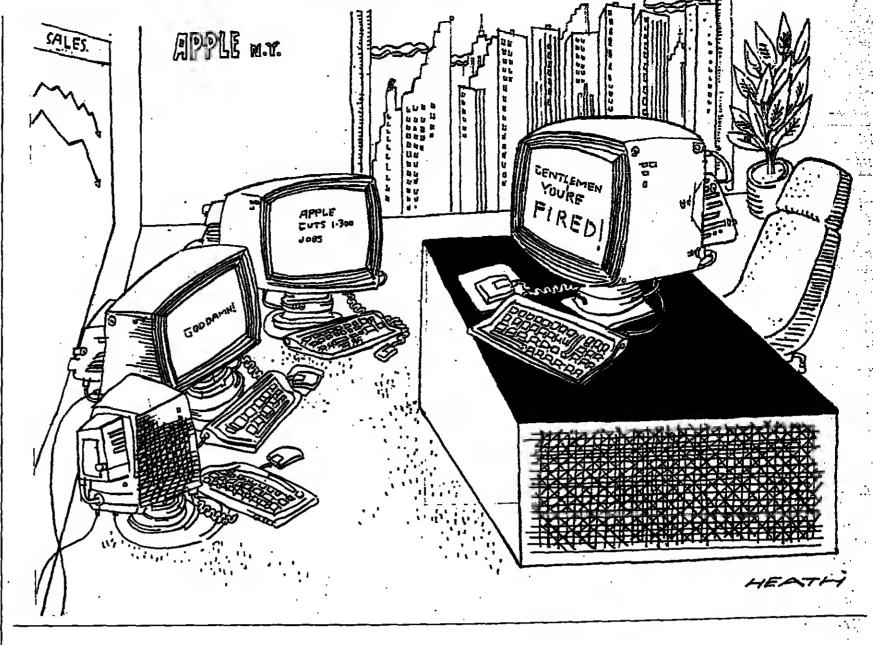
exploited this in the past. His husiness grew most prodigiously through its takeover of Trusthouse in the Sixties. Then most of the charges being levelled at Mr Rohinson today were aimed at the Fortes: they were the new arrivals intent

on taking over a venerable company. There is no public interest at stake in this bid. Even though service-sector companies are far more important than they were to the economy, Forte does not rank as a national asset. It has lost the support of the City in recent years because its family management responded too slowly to

calls for higher returns. However, none of this means the bid reflects well on Granada, or the City itself where advisers. PR men and merchant bankers have been raking in huge fees, Did the pension funds who are selling out to Granada do as much as they could to pressurise Forte to change more quickly?

It seems unlikely. But the man who really has to worry is Mr Robinson. His strategy has twisted and turned as the bid has progressed. Granada will be very highly geared and, as a result, very vulnerable if he should win. Mr Robinson may well have overplayed his hand and offered over the odds for Forte in a

show of managerial machismo. If that is so, he will probably pay for his overamhition at the hands of his own shareholders and the entire hid will have



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Al-Masari's Islamic beliefs, values and goals

But I am fighting for an elected and accountable government in

judiciary and will be criticised by a free press, free labour unions

The regime I fight by fax and by telephone is accountable to no

one, elected by no one, loots its

own country's wealth and imple-

ments its twisted arbitrary and

repressive version of Sharia law

without legal basis or moral legit-

imacy. Which should British lib-

erals and progressives prefer?

MOHAMMED AL-MASARI

Yours sincerely,

London, SW1

and free associations.

From Professor Mohammed al-Masari

Sir: In her attempt to prove me a "viper" whom feminists and atheists like her can "tolerate" only through "gritted teeth", Polly Toynbee distorts my views, my character, misquotes and quotes out of context my remarks and thus misleads your readers "Why Mr Masari is good for us".

18 January).

She shows me apparently admiring Khomeini - whom 1 admire only in as much as he mohilised 5 million people against the dictatorship - while I made abundantly clear to her that we oppose Khomeini-ism as a methodology and would never replicate his theocracy in our own country.

In an apparent picture of a rake's progress, she distorts my own family life in a most insulting way, for example accusing me of "creating" single-parent families around the globe. The truth

As for the rest of her anti-Islamic prejudices - a shockingly acceptable form of racism among some Western liberals - our organisation is nnashamedly Islamic and it follows that we wish to see an Islamic system of law in

Have faith in

From Mr D. B. Price

the second boat

Sir: Your correspondents' views

on the certainties of Heaven and

Hell as the Church of England

might have us believe it reminds

me of a former vicar of St David's

Glyn became Bishop of Llandaff)

was known in the town as "Canon

Simons Second Boat". This was

on account of his frequently

expressed view that only "his"

people went to Heaven. Chapel

people had little hope though he did hold out a faint possibility

that they might arrive by the

Canon John Simons (his son

Church, Brecon, South Wales.

From Ms Zarina Choudry lim] women must suhmit to sex most is divorce". their husbands at any time. is that my wives already had chil- . in any manner". Oral and anal sex dren wheo I married them; 'are completely forbidden accordbefore I had children of my own. ing to Islamic law. Furthermore the wife has as much right to sexual satisfaction as her husband (Imam al Ghazali) - The Muslim Marriage Guide by Ruqaiyyah

Magsood (Quilliam Press). May I quote from the Prophet Mohamed's last sermon:

Hear me well! You have rights

My father, chapel not Church

of England, was then gravely ill.

John Simons deeply regretted that he could give him no assur-

ance that he would get to Heaven

but did grudgingly concede that

he might well get on that second boat. This, I believe, was because

my father pruned his roses most

skilfully. Well, would a man who

could prune a rose really be

denied entry to the Kingdom of

I have long pondered on the

strange fact that educated and

intelligent men - and the canon

was both ~ could believe such

nonsense. But they can, and do.

Sarisbury Green, Hampshire

Heaven!

Yours faithfully

D. B. PRICE

16 January

over your wives and they have rights over you!

Thank you very much on behalf of the thousands of Mus-Arabia - chosen by men and women - which will make the laws of the country, which will be implemented by an independent lim women and girls we counsel each year. Yours sincerely, ZARINA CHOUDRY

Administrator Muslim Women's Helpline Wembley, London

From Mr Mehdi Hasan Sir: Polly Toynbee asserts that "we may detest everything that Mr Masari stands for", even

though she is oo more of a rep-resentative for the British public than Mr Masari is for the Muslim community. His views on divorce ("it is a very good thing.") are totally un-Islamic, as Prophet Mohamed said on several occa-Sir, Mohammed al-Masari is sions: "Of all the lawful things, incorrect in stating that "[Musthe one that God dislikes the

> Muslim wife should stay at home with the children, forgetting that Mohamed's wife Khadija owned one of Arahia's most successful businesses. Such misguided, sexist views are probably the reason he is twice divorced. Yours sincerely.

MEHDI HASAN Harrow, Middlesex 17 January

The price of a little mould

From Mr Kevin Brown Sir. I was interested to read about the sale at Sotheby's of a slide with a sample of a descendent of Alexander Fleming's original Penicillium notatum mould for £15,000 ("Fleming treasure", 15 January). The price

reached reflects the continued interest in artefacts with even a peripheral connection with What cannot be given such an arbitrary valuation is the actual discovery in a small, musty, dusty laboratory here at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in 1928, a

chance discovery by a great mind prepared for the unusual that ushered in the antibiotic age in medicine and has saved countless lives and improved the quality of others. The importance of the discovery of penicillin is beyond price, and surely is more valuable than a slide kept in a hat box.

Yours, KEVIN BROWN Trust Archivist Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum Curator St Mary's Hospital London, W2

Delia's frugal days

From Dr Ruth Bryant Sir: With reference to Louise Levene's article (17 January) concerning "Della's hudget collection" proposals, I have a paperback by Delia Smith called Frugal Food published in 1976 and full of exactly the sort of economical but delicious recipes she proposes - very useful when first married! Yours sincerely,

RUTH BRYANT Rugby 17 January

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

The place of Greece in Europe

From Ms Despina Christodoulou Sir: How unsurprising to read yet another wholesale condemnation of Greece in the British press. According to Andrew Gumbel's pseudo-sociological analysis ("An end to the Greek Myth", 17 January), Greece is "primitive", "undisciplined", a "fiefdom" of nepotism and corruption, where orgies of violence are commonplace, surviving only through the generous European

Union funds that it squanders. True, Greece is quite unlike the rest of Europe, but herein likes its strength. Greece's Byzantine and Ottoman pasts provide Greece with a cultural make-up and "mental geography" shared by much of the region but inaccessible to the rest of the EU.

Greece has an invaluable insight into the psychological aspects of the new nationalisms springing up in the nether regions of Europe - Chechnya and Bosnia being good examples. And with the Balkans on track for recovery. Greece is due to become a regional powerhouse. This is where a "strategy" for Greece lies - to put it cynically, as Europe's outpost in the East. But first the rest of Europe must learn to appreciate Greece and its idiosyncrasies a little more. Yours sincerely,

D. CHRISTODOULOU Cambridge 18 January

From Professor Roderick Beaton Sir: Andrew Gumbel attributes to Andreas Papandreou the breathaking achievement, for a prime

minister of Greece, of securing EU funding for a bridge between the European and Asiatic shores of Turkey ("across the Helles-pont"). In sober fact, the Rio-Antirrio bridge, if it is ever built, will span the mouth of the Guif of Corinth, the waterway in which the armies of Christendom and Islam clashed in the year 1573, causing Miguel de Cervantes to lose an arm and take up writing as a career.

More seriously, in his eagerness to attribute all the political, social and economic ills of Greece to the agency of one man, Mr Gumbel's searing con-demnation of the "towering per-sonality of Greek politics over the past 15 years" gives your readers no hint of the fact that for three of these years, from 1990 to 1993, Greece was governed by the

opposing, right-wing New Democracy Party under the premiership of Constantine Mitsotakis, and for another year (1989-90) by an all-party coalition. To lay the hlame for all the perceived ills of Greece today on one man is to perpetuate the most dangerous and absurd of all the myths on which the electoral success of Papandreou's Pasok movement and the cross-party emotion surrounding his departure from political life are alike founded. namely that l'état, c'est moi.

Yours faithfully, RODERICK BEATON Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies King's College London, WC2 18 January

No pastiche for Paternoster

From Mr Paul Fisher Sir: We should have the courage to develop Paternoster Square in a contemporary style or indeed in contemporary styles, representing the diversity and vigour of modern design. There is no reason why the site needs to be developed in a uniform way. Piecemeal development has characterised its history and would certainly be more truly reflective of the nature of the place than monolithic neo-clas-

And the cry that anything sur-rounding a "classic" huilding must be "in sympathy" with it is generally only the cry of the effete. The juxtaposition of Clare College and King's College Chapei, for example, has itself become a model vista but both are the essence of their own periods. Harmony and proportion can be achieved without cutesy replication of the style of another

Yours sincerely, PAUL FISHER London, W2 12 Јапиагу

sical pastiche.

From Mr G. C. Turle Sir: It strikes me that the redevelopment of Paternoster Square needs a special feature to focus attention and make it a worthy site for tourists to visit. A source of interest would be created by the erection of a tower clock comparable in style to the clock in St Mark's Square in Venice.

Twelve ex-prime ministers' statuettes, armed with a hammer, would rotate to strike the time. Inthe case of Mrs Thatcher the hammer would be dispensed with and a handhag substituted instead.

Yours sincerely, G. C. TURLE Canterbury, Kent 17 January

The Pope as a stakeholder

From Mr Christopher Road Sir: The thinking behind the stakeholder economy, as described in David Marquand's interesting article ("A stake through the heart of old simplici-

ties", 15 January), is strikingly reminiscent of Catholic social teaching. Not widely known in this country, this substantial body of thought has been developed by successive popes over the past 100 years and provides the moral arguments for a stakeholder society as described by Professor Marquand.

Yours faithfully CHRISTOPHER ROAD London, SW15 15 January

Car worship

From Mr Alan Corder Sir. In the week that the Government's chief curriculum adviser complained that morality had become no more than a matter of taste, we have the Church of England breaking the second and third commandments by bowing down to the "motor car" in Coventry Cathedral.

The second commandment, according to Exodus 20, is "you shall not make a carved image for yourself", and the third is you shall not bow down to them or worship them", which in my opinion is what the congregation did yesterday when they allowed a car to be the reason

for the service. When I saw the Bishop of Coventry defending this service with what I took to be a goldplated exhaust pipe io his left hand, l thought, Heaven help us. Yours faithfully,

ALAN CORDER Chard, Somerset 18 January

Fergie's pounds lighter after our lunch

P cople who don't know that I write for the Independent sometimes ask me what I do for a living. I don't mind that.

Unfortunately, some people who do know that I write for the Independent also ask me what I do for a living. What they actually say is, "Surely it doesn't take you all day to write one

small column?* And they are quite right. 1 have another job which is entirely separate from my newspaper work. I spend a lot of my time as inde-

pendent financial adviser to the Duchess of York. When she first came to me. I have to admit the case tooked hopeless. She wanted to know how to make savings, how to make ends meet and how to halance hudgets - in hrief, she wanted to know how to turn over a new leaf and be a new slimmer, bud-

get-conscious Fergie. "Forget it," I told her. "Scrimping and saving never helped anyone. What you need is a plan. A big plan.

A master plan!" "What kind of master plan?" she asked, staring up in rather pathetic awe at the masterful pair of accountant's spectacles I had bought spe-

cially for the occasion. "You are not spending enough," 1 told her. "You must either spend a lot



MILES KINGTON

less - which is dreary in the extreme or a lot, lot more, which is fun." "But if I spend more, I shall go bankrupt!" she said.

I smiled in a tiresomely knowledgeable sort of way.

"All the best people are on the verge of bankruptcy," I said. "The United Nations is hopelessly in debt. The Tory party is millions in debt. Imelda Marcos is desperately in debt. The United States of America is desperately in debt. Are any of them going out of business? I think not. Are they doing rather well? I think so."

"Well, what should I do?" "Let's have lunch and talk about it." "Where?" "Somewhere in the Caribbean?" I

suggested. Her eyes brightened. I was obviously her sort of financial adviser. But I have often found that it is hardly

worth taking a client out to lunch if

you have only the lunch hill to show the tax people for it. Lunch in St Kitts, £60; transport from office to lunch and back, £600, that's my kind of expenses claim.

"So what I suggest is this," I said to her, as we toyed with our shark steaks in the poshest restaurant in Roseau, unassuming capital of the island of Dominica, which lies enti-cingly between the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. "I sug-gest that you embark on a mammoth

spending spree."
"It sounds wonderful," she said. "But won't I end up a hostage to the media? To my mother-in-law? To the Duke of York? To shoe shops every-

where? To you?" "On the contrary," I said. "They will all be hostages to you. A person who owes more than £1m cannot be

"They will try to bring me down," she said.

"They tried to bring Saddam Hussein down," I said. "The whole world has inflicted sanctions on Saddam Hussein to drive him penniless out of office. He is unmoved. He is stronger than ever."

"Are you trying to tell me that it is safer to owe money than to possess it?"
she said, looking for the comforting truth in my enigmatic grey eyes.

"Not very long ago," I said, "I was financial adviser to the Church of England. It nearly went hankrupt through property speculation and is now just as strong as ever. President Clinton tells me that at the rate his legal fees are mounting np, he may he hankrupt come autumn. Nick

"Nick Leeson!" said Fergie. "He isn't much of an example. Barings Bank went bankrupt and it didn't help them much." 'Pardon me," I said, "but Barings

Bank is just as strong as ever. It has just changed owners, that's all. Incidentally, what bank do you use?" "Coutts," she said. "Are you sug-sting that I could do for Coutts what Nick Leeson did for ... ?"

"Well, these are early days," I said. "Good heavens, is that the time? 1 must be back in the office tomorrow We had better drift down to the airport. But I have some husiness to do in Dominica first ..."

the possibility of a Saudi Arabian gentleman moving here. No big deal ..." Readers must have caught my drift by now. Anybody needing top level financial advice knows where to EUTO to ...

You have clients here?" she said.

'i have been asked informally by

the British government to sound out

'Sky is good for sport. And we will show it'

Sam Chisholm hardly ever speaks in public. Even in his legendary calls to journalists who write things he does not like, the ticking off – in colourful language punctuated by the odd howl of rage – is prefaced by the warning: "This is off the record; doo't you dare bloody use my name." But westerday the chief bloody use my name." But yesterday the chief executive of BSkyB, a multi-millionaire New Zealander and Rupert Murdoch's top televi-sion executive outside the US, was all smiles, all charm and ready - no. wanting to be quoted.

The uncharacteristic welcome granted the Independent at BSkyB's low-lying, modero modular headquarters in Isleworth, west London, had more than just e social purpose. For perhaps the first time, Mr Chisholm is behaving as though he believes the Government may really be gunning for Sky, Britain's leading pay-television company and the dominant broadcaster of sporting eveots.

Envious rival broadcasters and backbench MPs from both sides of the House of Commons routinely demonise Sky as monopolistic, anti-competitive and a scab on the body cultural. With the new Broadcasting Bill making its way through Parliament, they have oow been given a chance to act. Cross-party support for an amendment to the Bill emerged this week which would provide greater protection for "listed" events - including the Grand National, the FA Cup, the Derby, England cricket, the World Cup and Wimbledon. Current legislation prohibits the broadcast of these events on pay-per-view television. The politi-cians now want to keep them off subscription television, too, a prospect that worries Sky.

The extent of parliamentary support for the amendment is striking. Both the Conservatives and new Labour have been cautiously courting Mr Murdoch, aware of the power he wields through his stable of British newspapers. But here at last was a simple, straightforward issue on which simple, straightforward politicians could agree: sport is part of the lifehlood of the oatioo and ought to be widely accessible. Football - at least the hig matches - is oot like any old commodity, bought and sold eccording to the cold hard market. It is a cultural event, a defining facet of our oational identity, in oeed of special protection.

That this is true, largely, only for men. That regional and class differences weigh heavily in the degree of affection Britons feel for the "oational" sport seems not to have been much discussed. Forgotteo is how much Sky has already done for football; hetter match coverage, superior technology for replays and colour commentary and - crucially - more money for the owners of the leading clubs. Forgotten, too, is the fact that Sky provided 9,500 hours of sport last year, 3,000 of them live broadcasts – dwarfing the schedules of both ITV and BBC.

All these issues were tossed aside this week. Instead, many MPs are fretting about how oational sport is too important to be left wholly to the market, and worrying about the mfluence television can have on the very fabric of sport - from switching rugby from a winter to a summer game to suit hroadcasters, to changing the timing and leogth of matches to

accommodate advertising breaks.

Thanks to sport and film, Sky has become the country's most profitable broadcaster. Hollywood films and top sporting events such as the Premier League and golf's Ryder Cup have driven satellite dish sales to more than 4.6 million and fuelled subscriptions to Sky's The satellite company is under fierce attack. In a rare interview with Mathew Horsman, its head, Sam Chisholm, defends his strategy

multi-channel package, providing BSkyB with nearly £1bn e year in operating profits. Without the two types of programmes that people have shown themselves willing to pay for, \$ky is an uneppealing mix of American imports, standard news, and cheap "lifestyle" and

entertainment programmes.

In the battle to ensure that market forces, rather than government interference, dictate the economics of sport on television, Mr Chisholm has already lined up an impressive list of allies. Among them are the leading official of the state of cials of virtually every professional sport. What you have to ask is what is good for the sporting community," he says. "Just ask them whether they want the old BBC-ITV monopoly or real competition for rights. Sky is the best thing that has ever happened to British

Hear, hear, say the Football League, the Premier League, professional rugby, even cricket. And why not? As David Dien, vicechairman of Arsenal Football Club, points out, broadcast rights to the oext five years of Premier League football are likely to spiral to at least £500m, a far cry from the paitry sums as low as £3m annually - formerly paid by the two traditional hroadcasters, BBC and ITV, in

the days of the duopoly. BSkyB has come back hard, sponsoring an

'Ask the sporting community whether they want the old **BBC-ITV** monopoly or real competition'

industry seminar oo Wednesday that pitted sporting organisations against politicians. "We have nothing against a voluntary list of events," says David Elstein, Sky's director of programming. "We doo't believe it should be legislated against the wishes of the sporting organisations themselves," In other words, Mr Elstein wants the list dropped altogether.

He makes one incontrovertible point; the list is out of date and inconsisteot: "Why protect the Grand National and oot the Cheltenham Gold Cup? Why the FA Cup hut oot the Learne Cup?" the League Cup?

Mr Chisholm scoffs at complaints from politicians that Sky's cootrol of important televised sporting events means fewer highlights on mainstream television. "We made it possi-hle for the BBC to revive Match of the Day," he says. "We have also shared the rights to Football League matches." He accuses one of Sky's chief critics, the BBC, of capriciousness: "We went to the BBC and asked for the rights to highlights of the Atlanta Olympics. They said no, we won't share them with you." Intransigence by public service hroadcasters here and on the Continent was the main reason why News Corporation, BSkyB's controlling shareholder, bid \$2bn for the European rights to the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2008. "We have given firm undertak-mgs that the games would have a wide viewership," Mr Chisholm says. "If News Corporatioo managed to buy the Olympics, there would certainly be coverage oo terrestrial tele-

The BBC complains that it cannot compete against Sky's deep pockets. But Mr Chisholm finds this astonishing, given how much higger the BBC's overall hudgets are: "If the BBC wants to increase sports programming, it should reallocate spending from other strands.

The BBC competes in the marketplace for Noel Edmonds, so why oot for sport?" Time, he believes, is on his side: "The technological revolution means more services and more competition. The only constant is change, and television is changing radically. Legislation created in the Fifties is anachronistic.

Anyway, within a decade, he and his senior executives hint, the BBC will be unable to justify the licence fee and will be forced to compete openly, accepting that the creeping commercialisation that already characterises some of its operations under John Birt will have reach the logical cooclusioo: privatisation.

In the short term, the list of protected events may well be strengthened and politicians will be content. But for them simply to concentrate on sport, when BSkyB's pay-TV stranglehold has more to do with technology, access to satellite capacity, its control of billing systems and its exclusive deals with programme-suppliers, its to miss the point.

is to miss the point.

It misses, indeed, an even bigger point: the changing nature of British society. We oo longer all watch the same programmes, oor do we even share the same view of the oatioo. Television may be fragmenting, but then so are our communities and our sense of how we relate to politics, culture and each other.

More prosaically, constraining the market for sport rights is commercially short-sighted, and not just from Mr Murdoch's perspective. "We doo't want to limit the possibility of bidding for sport rights oo our own account," a rival senior television executive says. "Our real problem is with Murdoch's monopoly, and listng events isn't going to help."

Competition policy ought to provide a remedy, if Sky is truly acting as a mooopoly. The Office of Fair Trading is looking at such issues and expects to make a ruling later this year. Pressure from the OFT will do far more to restrain Sky's hold on pay-TV than any single-issue protectionism. But Mr Chisholm is not taking chances and will fight the politicians all the way. "They are wroog, and we can show it. We are a force for good. We have already shown what we can do with football: we can and intend to do the same with other sports."

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB: 'Television is changing radically' Photograph: Reuter



Let's be alcoholics, like in the movies!

K ing Street, Cambridge. Two-thirty ment, is exempt. What is more, young in the afterooon. Two girls and a people are systematically inducted into boy, sixth-formers maybe, uodergraduetes maybe. One of the girls, hardly able to stand, wriggles and paws the boy in a drunken parody of seduc-tion. The boy, drunk too, I'd say, but still upright, rolls away from her flailing hands but keeps his eyes on her hiked-up skirt and her twisted blouse. The second girl is sober, concerned, seems to be waiting meekly for the staggering temptress to collapse so that she can drag her away. She must have been bored out of her wits by this grotesque little scene, hut she seemed ready to stay for all the time it was likely to take.

Why are the undrunk so tolerant of the drunk? How many times have you seen the sober struggling to gel the drunk indoors and out of harm's way, giving up hours to cushion this kind of drug abuser from the consequences of his/her own actions?

All other substances that are capable of altering behaviour and personality as radically as alcohol does are demonised, even wheo the altered behaviour is social rather than anti-social. Ecstasy is touted nowadays as a dangerous drug. when the deaths resulting from its use are less numerous than those caused by peanut allergy. Alcohol, which is an addictive and dangerous drug that inflicts a vast toll upon the family, industry, the health service and law enforce-

alcohol dependency with the approval of those who claim to have their interests at heart.

From the day a student arrives at university, that student will be taught to drink. The breweries and distilleries provide college bars with alcohol of all kinds at reduced rates, just so that students will learn to drink. The rationale is that they will learn how to drink. The truth is that they will learn that alcobol is an essential adjunct to any social interaction.

Some of them have already begun drinking to excess. When I lecture at sixth-form conferences and pop into a neighbouring pub for a beer and a sandwich, I find the bar surrounded four or five deep by sixth-formers, ordering double vodkas with orange squash. How they can have the money to indulge such expensive if revolting tastes is one question that pareots might ask themselves. I have never seen a barman ask a single one of these kids for ID. The marketing of fruit squashes heavily laced with alcohol to an even younger age group was clearly based oo good research.

Liquor firms have a responsibility to their shareholders to increase their markets and sales at every available opportunity, and in this they are given every assistance. Gone are the days, I hope, when hotel guests retiring in bed puses has become a huge problem.



would find a miniature bottle of brandy on the pillow, for which they had unwittingly paid in the bill for the room.

At May balls in Cambridge colleges the cost of a hard-liquor bar is included in the exorbitant price of the ticket. There is oo need for any such thing; if tipsiness is the aim, champagne is more than enough. The fact that 19-year-olds can drink as much Southern Comfort as they think they want adds nothing to the quality of the experience.

I have seen beautiful young women in dresses they saved all year for, eyes unfocused, mouths slack, too drunk to move, let alone dance, and the night so young as to be still evening. It can be no consolation to know that they were forced to pay for the wreck of their own good time. The colleges could dispense with the hard liquor bar and reduce the price of the ticket, so why don't they?

Alcohol abuse oo university cam-

Housekeeping staff are often expected to clean up disgusting messes in corridors and public rooms. Some would say that the young are learning from the unpleasant experience of intoxicatioo not to repeat their mistakes, e view which seems to hold that alcohol can be managed, and by everyone, which is clearly untrue. Others would say that they are learning that drunkenness is tolerable, fun even, and throwing up merely laddish. What they certainly learn is that somebody else

will clean up.

Now, to confer Hollywood glamour
upon alcoholism, comes a film, nommated for the best film award at Cannes, where the brewers and distillers doubtless do a roaring trade. Leaving Las Vegas begins fairly promisingly, showing us a drunk who is nearly as obstreperous and boring as a real drunk, but romanticism takes over. The drunk wants to kill himself with alcohol, which he accomplishes by pouring full hottles of vodka down his neck at e rate that would have poisoned him if it had been water.

Kids can kill themselves by skolling whole bottles of vodka, but not seasoned alcoholics. No alcoholic would waste the amount of liquor he spills around the joint, but then no one in the last stages of alcoholism would look half as fit as he does, despite the heavy make-up. No shakes to speak of; no borrors; oo peripheral neuritis for him;

no alcoholic gastritis; no Wernicke's encephalopathy. No piss stains oo his nice clean trousers. Oh sure, he says he vomits, but we never see him do it, and his not eating in these days of anorexia is pretty cool, specially when he picks the ice-cube out of his glass with his chopsticks. He doesn't repeat himself. ever, oho no. His memory and his speech ceotres go on working. None of the nastiness, the self-righteousness, the self-pity, the viciousness of the longterm alcoholic sours him.

He is just so sweet he wins the affections of a down-trodden hooker, whom he doesn't force to drink along with him, doesn't bicker with, doesn't hit. You'd never think that alcohol is implicated in most homicides and most domestic violence, to see this guy who succeeds in snuffing it on schedule and, preposterously, on the job.

I have known people who have been killing themselves with alcohol for 30 years; every time they get within reach of their goal, someooe picks them up, puts them in hospital and sorts them out so that they can go on drinking. The policemen, ambulance-drivers, paramedies and nurses who have to deal with these pests (who are quite likely to show their appreciation by attacking them and smashing up casualty wards), not to mention the legions of women and children abused by alcoholics, should picket cinemas showing Leaving Las Vegas.

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When I read that the Duchess of York had an overdraft of £3m, thanks to excessive spending, it took me back to the days in the Sixties when I woo £152,000 on the pools equivalent to £3m in today's money -

and vowed to "spend, spend spend".
Four years later, I had spent it all.
Of course, the Duchess is io a different position. I am sure that if I had married into a wealthy family I would have expected them always to back me for ever, and have no qualms about it. She must think that she can go on spending and spending and the Queen will always pick up her hills. Well, the Queen has said no and I think she was right. We all have to learn responsib-

ility and to stand on our own two feet.

Even duchesses have debts

and brazenness - just the same qualities it takes to spend the money in the first place. You have to pay off your debts little by little, and blame no one but yourself. I knew I had oo rich pareots to help me out; she must face up to the fact that she has no one, either.

The friends that surround her now may well turo out to be like the "friends" who helped me to spend my money. All my old friends, the people I grew up with, faded away when I won they did not want to be accused of going after my money. In their place came hangers-on, people who were The Duchess has to remember now that dealing with debts needs courage great fun and great friends – as long as I paid the piper. It is hard to live

ANOTHER VIEW

Viv Nicholson

around people who think you are clever for coming into a lot of money fast - and it sounds as if the Duchess has been spending hard to impress the people around her.

I wonder if she will find, as I did, that her friends will disappear very quickly now she is in difficulties. No one phoned, no one apologised, no one offered to lend me any money. I was left alone with four children 10

denying that she is really in trouble. I used to go out and spend £700 in a day, then the bank would phone up and say they were going to bounce the cheque. It is so hard to let go of that fantastic feeling of freedom—you can buy 10 pairs of shoes and 10 outfits all at once. Then you come home and yoo have got all these shoes and clothes, and you think, what was that

about? Or you give a party - which would cost £2,000 m those days - all to impress other people. The humiliation of losing all your money is terrible. But you have to take stock of what you have, face up to your

responsibilities and live through it. You swap the hig house for a small one, and you sell the car. In the process you discover who really values you, even when you have nothing The people I am close to now

really want me, oot what I have to give in fact, I am more likely to be sponging off them. I will phone them up and say, "I'm a hit short, can I come over to tea?

My children have never reproached me for what happened, and I hope Beatrice and Eugenie will he just as

understanding.
I now have a job at a duty-free shop selling perfume, and I live in a small terraced house. But it is a happy house, and there is a room here for the Duchess of York if she needs it.

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Economy: As the City bets on a further fall in rates by March, buoyant retail sales and improved confidence arouse doubts

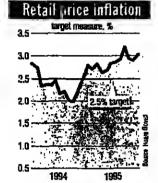
Surprise cut lifts Footsie to record

PAUL WALLACE **Economics Editor**

Kenneth Clarke cut interest rates yesterday by a quarter point to 6.25 per cent, in a surprise move that propelled the

stock market to a record high. The City is betting on another quarter point cut by March and a further reduction by the beginning of June, bringing rates down to 5.75 per cent. Gilts reacted favourably with the March long gilt future rising by

half a point. Yesterday's move brings rates to their lowest for a year and was welcomed by industry and commerce. But the absence of



any endorsement from the Bank of England aroused widespread suspicions in the City that the Chancellor had dictated policy to a reluctant Eddic George, the Bank of England Govenor.

While the FT-SE 100 index soured by 44.5 points to 3.748.7, sterling fell back on the foreign exchanges. The Bank of England's trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies fell from 83.2 to 83, near its alltime low, as the pound weakened against the dollar and mark on fears of a renewed leadership challenge to John

Despite the pick-up in retail price inflation in December, Mr Clarke said he had made the decision "in the light of further evidence confirming inflationary pressures have continued to case". The Chancellor pointed to stable earnings growth and a

growing below trend - bad also ed to the decision. The sbarp falling away in important export markets, particularly in Europe, was also contributing to slower growth at home.

Further evidence of the seriousness of the European downturn came from Germany, where the IFO business climate index fell from 94.8 in Novem-

ber to 93.2 in December. In France, meagre economic growth of 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 1995 was con-

Responding to the weakness of the economy, the French cen-tral bank cut the key intervention rate by 25 basis points to 4.20 per cent. The five-to-10 day lending rate, which acts as a ceiling, was cut from 5.85 to 5.60

The Bank of England said the absence of any public comment on the rate cut marked a reversion to normal practice whereby the monthly monetary meeting remains confidential until the release of the minutes six weeks afterwards.
In a BBC interview, Mr
Clarke said: "We refuse to give

hints one way or the other."
However, the timing of the cut was generally regarded in the City as politically inspired, if justified by the state of the economy. "The economics left

the door open but politics must

have played a big part in the tim-

ing," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, of Paribas Capital Markets. Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS, said: "I suspect the Governor might have wanted to wait a hit, but the Governor is no longer a constraint, the only effective constraint is the exchange rate. The Chancellor will press rates down to the limits of

sterling's resilience." Despite this assessment, it seems unlikely that the decision marks a re-run of last summer's open division between Mr Clarke and Mr George over interest rates. When the minutes are released, they are more likely to show Mr George was not pressing for a cut, but neither was he opposing one.

Roger Bootle, group chief economist at HSBC, said: "My nomic slowdown - with manufacturing output stalled in have acquiesced reluctantly."



Hasty exit: Chancellor Kenneth Clarke leaving television studios in Milibank, London yesterday aftrer cutting borrowing rates

Clarke moves despite inflation setback

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent**

The Chancellor's decision to reduce base rates for the second time in two months flew in the face of yesterday's economic statistics. They showed that inflation increased last month, retailers enjoyed a record Christmas and business confidence improved for the first time in nearly two years. This leaves manufacturing the

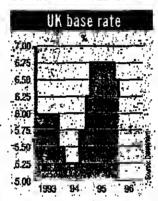
weakest area of the economy. Figures due next week should fill in the broader picture, with an initial estimate for fourth-quarter GDP and the Confederation of British Industry's detailed quarterly business survey. Growth in the final three months subdued, held back by flat manufacturing output.

Increases in excise duties announced in the Budget helped take headline retail price inflation up from 3.1 to 3.2 per cent last month. Inflation excluding mortgage interest payments climbed to 3.0 per cent, compared with its 2.5 per cent

Higher duties on petrol and tohacco explained about balf of the monthly rise in the retail prices index. However, other components, including household goods and non-seasonal foods such as dairy products and processed meat, con-tributed to the increase.

The next two months will probably see inflation dip again. There will be less impact from excise duties this January Clarke's mini-budget brought extra mcreases. Lower mort-

City economists were divided yesterday about inflation prospects further ahead, Kevin Darlington at the broker Hoare Govett said: "Inflation remains



gage rates will help this month, and the petrol price war from February. surprisingly stubborn." How-ever, James Barty at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "Despite the inflation upset this month, the general trend remains

downward.' Separate statistics showed that the value of sales set a record in December, reaching a weekly average of £4.2bn. This was 44 per cent higher than the average for the rest of 1995, making it the biggest Christmas boom since the late 1980s. The

spending reached its highest for Sales volumes showed an noward trend, increasing 1,7 per cent in the year to December. This was their fastest growth for six months, although lower lier months were revised np.

rate of growth in high street

jackpot will dent January retail sales, hnt analysts said the trend was encouraging.
On top of the evidence of

buoyant consumer sector, yesterday also brought the first signs of business cheer. Business optimism rose for the first time in nearly two years in the final quarter of last year, according to a British Chambers of Commerce survey.

The BCC president, Robin Geldard, said: "These figures point to a better 1996." Domestic sales had sta-

bilised and exports were bold-ing up after declining earlier in the year, according to the snrvey. Although big firms shed staff, there was a sharp rise in reported shortages of ing signal of higher wage The rollover National Lottery

Lenders brace for renewed warfare

NIC CICUTTI

Britain's biggest mortgage lenders are poised to renew the bome loan price war within weeks if base rates fall by

another 0.25 per cent. Experts said that lenders' refusal to act on yesterday's cut by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was a reflection of the narrowing of margins between their own rates and those of the Bank of England.

If cuts do come, this time they are more likely to be announced from some of the smaller build-

Rob Thomas, a huilding society analyst at UBS, the Swiss banking group, who predicted earlier downward moves, said: The difference between the hase rate and mortgage rate has been compressed in the past few

"If there was another 0.25 per cent reduction in base rates, the societies would probably react very quickly. The omens are good for a further base reduction by the end of March.

The issue may now be one of whether some of the smaller societies react by pushing down their mortgage rates in an attempt to grab some of the lime-light."

His comments came as big lenders said yesterday that earlier reductions, which bave cut the cost of mortgages by about 0.75 per cent in the past five months, had already anticipated the downward move.

Although several lenders, including Nationwide and Woolwich, said they were studying the market and would remain competitive, both insisted they had no plans to reduce rates below their current average of about 7.49 per cent.

.Resistance to a mortgage rate cut was stiffened by opposition from Halifax and Abbey National, both of which have been at the forefront of the bome loan price war in recent they saw no need for further reductions in the meantime.

Standard sets tough rules on governance

PETER RODGERS

Standard Life yesterday told Britain's top 100 quoted companies that it expected tougher performance conditions for the award of directors' share options and long-term incentive schemes than those in the Greenbury report.

The request was in a letter to the chairmen of FTSE 100 companies from Dick Barfield. the chief investment manager. setting out Standard Life's new corporate governance guide-

The Edinburgh-based com-pany manages £42hn of funds and is Europe's largest mutual life insurer, owning more than 2 percent of the UK equity market, so its guidelines are ex-pected to have a significant influence on company

Mr Barfield said the guidelines covered "pretty well all the points" in the Cadbury and Greenbury reports. But a lot of companies used total shareholder return – share price plus dividends - as the sole measure of performance, which Standard believed was wrong.

He added that the benefits

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some measure of underlying fi-nancial performance such as value added or growth in earnings per share that the managers could affect directly, unlike the share price

The main features of the guidelines are advice to separate the roles of chairmen and chief executives, a fundamental plank of the Cadbury report, and the appointment of effective independent non-executive directors.

There must be comprehensive disclosure of remuneration, and incentive schemes must reward directors for high performance, not mediocrity.

Standard's letter also recommends that directors' service contracts should not exceed one year, rather than the two to three years widely practised now. Although Greenbury said there was a strong case for one-year contracts, its recommendation was hedged, and Standard appears to be making the point more robustly.

Mr Barfield said: "Corporate

governance is not a box-ticking exercise. Adherence to the spirit of our policies is the key.

Standard Life already votes as a matter of course at all shareholders' meetings and meets all the top 100 companies should be awarded against at least once a year. It plans to

vet compliance with the guidelines and will also ask smaller companies in which it holds shares to observe them - although the request will probably be made in meetings, not by sending a letter to the chairmen

Mr Barfield said Standard already had a policy of identifying underperforming companies and telling them if they were seen to be following the wrong

If the share price did not re-flect the problem and management did not listen, one outcome would be to sell the shares. If the problem was already in the share price, Stan-dard would tell the company it should think about changing management, probably by talking to the non-executives. who under Standard's guidelines would include the chairman.

In hostile bids, Standard does not automatically support the incumbent management. Mr Barfield said the company had not yet made up its mind about the Granada bid for Forte.

Standard's letter came a day after Ian Irvine, chairman of Reed Elsevier and Reed International, said companies should be free to ignore parts of the Cadbury code on corporate governance.

Grand Met leads in £200m Walker battle

JOHN WILLCOCK

Financial Correspondent

Grand Metropolitan won an important round in its £200m dispute with Brent Walker yesterday when the High Court ruled that the sale of its William Hill and Mecca husiness to George Walker seven years ago should be re-interpreted. Brent Walker said yesterday

that it will study the judgment and then decide whether to appeal. The dispute centred on a disagreement between George

pard, the Grand Met chairman, on the accounting standard used in Grand Met's £685m sale of the betting shop business to Brent Walker in 1989. Walker maintained that I ord Sheppard had guaranteed at the

time of the sale that the business would make profits of £55m in its first year, which it did not. Grand Met, however, said it had used acquisition accounting to show profits of £58m for the business in the year to Septem-

Walker, the former chairman of ber 1989 and Brent Walker Brent Walker, and Lord Sbepshould have been aware that should have been aware that William Hill's one-off costs would be charged to profits. Yesterday the court ruled that

the agreement on the sale should be "rectified", a legal term which means that Grand Met is not disputing what the contract says but that the contract does not reflect

what it thought it had agreed. The High Court ruling, said Grand Met, "will ensure that the agreement is interpreted in the same way as both parties intended at the time it was made."

"Arthur Andersen is currently arbitrating on the dispute between the two companies, and the ruling by the High Court forms part of the arbitration process. Grand Met remains confident of the outcome of this arbitration process."

Brent Walker has not yet

decided whether to appeal, but is still keen for the dispute to be cleared up as soon as possible, according to its finance director, John Leach, yesterday. The dispute began when Brent

£50m of the £685m and counterclaimed for up to £200m plus interest. Grand Met took the dispute to court and won. It also won the subsequent appeal.

Grand Met said it did not pursue Brent Walker for payment of the £50m in view of the latter's financial crisis. The Arthur Andersen arbitrator was appointed in 1992, since when George Walker has been ousted from the group and Brent Walker has frequently hovered near bankrupt-The dispute began when Brent cy. Its debts now amount to Walker refused to hand over £1.4bn despite disposals.

Vodafone to challenge Orange with £15m advertising campaign

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Vodafone, the leading mobile telephone operator, is chal-lenging the growing popularity of rival newcomer Orange with a nationwide campaign that will treble its direct advertising

spend to £15m. The programme will coincide with the introduction of new lower charges from Vodafone which could spark a fresh round in the mobile price wars, with Cellnet, the other big operator, expected to follow suit. The campaign emerges as

City analysts say will value the company at about £2bn. Orange, owned by Hutchison Whampoa and British Acrospace, has declined to comfirm plans for the listing but an announcement clarifying the situation is expected next week.

Orange was launched 21 months ago and has only 380,000 subscribers compared with Vodafone's and Cellnet's 2.3 million each. But it is acknowledged to have become a serious player, particularly in the growing consumer marketnlace. A spokesman for Vodafone Orange prepares for a stock said: "The market bas changed.

a well-branded product. "We are seen as establishment and perhaps bave been viewed as being mainly for business customers. But in fact over half onr base are consumers." One sonrce said that Orange had had a "run at the mar-ket" with substantially lower

tarrifs while its network was be-

ing huilt.
The comment implies that Vodafone, which had previ-ously said its higher charges were justified because of its superior coverage, now plans an attack on all fronts.

Forte steps up war of words in bid battle

MATHEW HORSMAN

Granada could lose up to one-third of the management fees from Meridien, the hotels group, if its £3.9bn hostile bid goes through.

The luxury hotels and restaurants company, which is in the final desperate stages of defending its independence, said the loss of contracts could ecopardise a sale of the Meridien chain, which Granada has promised as part of its asset disposal programme. Nine owners could terminate their management contracts immediately, Forte said, and warned that a domino effect could induce a other owners to follow suit.

Patrick Copeland, Hotels Director at Forte, said that in the light of the question marks over the Meridien contracts, "Granada's ability to realise £2.1hn proceeds from its planned asset sales look illfounded and unrealistic."

Granada has said it would raise £500m from the sale of Forte's 68 per cent stake m Savoy, the motorway service opcrations and a stake in Alpha, the catering group. Another £1.6bn would come from hotel. sales, including the Meridien chain. Yesterday, Granada dis-

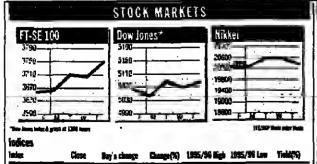
missed Forte's warning on Meridien - and warned that the latter's promised international expansion was unlikely to be a success, in the light of Forte's past track record in this area."

Meanwhile, it emerged last night that a provisional deal by Forte to sell its restaurants and hudget botels business to Whitbread has attracted the interest of competition authorities. According to informed sources, Whitbread is prepared to sell four Travelodge botels close to sites in its existing portfolio, in order to avoid a reference.

Sir Rocco Forte vesterday continued his discussions with small shareholders, who are believed to be more likely than institutions to vote against the hostile bid.

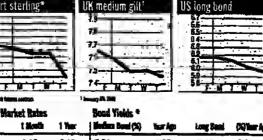
Analysis continued to predict a victory for Granada, although some said the outcome remained close. Mercury Asset Management confirmed yesterday it bad sold an additional 5m shares to Granada in response to the TV and leisure company's hid for a 9.9 per cent stake MAM is expected to tender its remaining shares to Granada by the time the bid

Granada closed 3p higher at 696p, while Forte was 4p stronger at 381.5p.

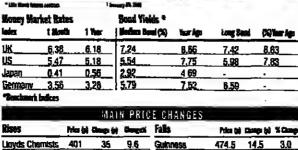


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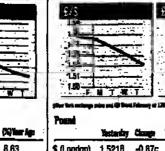




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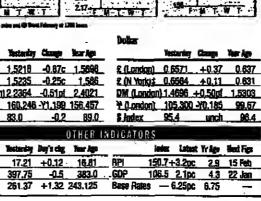
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Tace for

COMMENT

While there are some early Indications of a pick-up in retail spending, the stagnation of manufacturing production and the plight of construction are hard realities'

The right decision on rates, despite the timing

ing upon the Government, who can doubt that the Chancellor would not have chanced his arm on cutting interest rates on a day

when inflation edged up?

Like the dog that didn't bark, the silence of the Bank of England offers an eloquent clue to Eddie George's preference. The Governor was doubtless at pains to avoid being boxed into another corner opposing the Chancellor. But he is unlikely to have turned over a new leaf. Given the evidence of a pick-up in retail sales in the final quar-ter of 1995 and the huoyancy of both broad and narrow money, Mr George would almost certainly have preferred delay. After all, the two of them were due to meet in just three weeks' time on 7 February.

But if a week is a long time in politics, how much more so would three weeks be to this government drowning in a sea of troubles. Not for the first time, Mr Clarke has had to throw a lifebelt into the water. Politics may be back in the driving seat of monetary policy and the new monetary arrangements which were supposed to give the Bank so much more discretion are proving an illu-sory bargain for Mr George. Britain seems no closer to a stable framework of counter inflationary policy.

Yet taken on its merits, the decision was

Kenneth Clarke is a man in a hurry – and Mr Major's latest tribulations explain why. If the electoral timetable were not pression who come early indications of a pick-up in retail Britain over-stimulating the economy seem spending, the stagnation of manufacturing production and the plight of construction are hard realities. As the Chancellor himself said, the downturn in Britain's export markets is

contributing to the slowdown in the economy. This is the real storm cloud that threatens to break. The downturn in the German and French economies has occurred much more quickly than anyone anticipated. Most economists think the easing in monetary policy by the German and French central banks will lead to a bounce-back in the second half of 1996. This tooks like wishful

At the still centre of the storm is the flagging German economy. The powerhouse of the European economy - that's the usual byline, but if so, a powerhouse running on half empty. With the mark painfully over-valued, Germany seems set to follow Britain's earlier example of deindustrialisation when sterling soared into the stratosphere in the

Mr Clarke will be able to hear from fellow finance ministers and central bankers when they turn up for the G7 meeting in Paris tomorrow. The dangers of a flagging world economy are now firmly on the agenda - and not before time. But without an uncharacteristic rush of blood to the head the right one, even though it would have of the German Bundesbank, it is hard to see looked more credible if it had been delayed early relief to conditions of near recession

negligible.

Too much debt will slow Railtrack down

Nothing, barring an early change of gov-ernment, is now going to stop the flota-tion of Railtrack, scheduled to occur in May. Labour continues to insist that it has some kind of nuclear weapon up its sleeve that will so thoroughly deter investors that the com-pany becomes unsaleable. We have yet to see what that is, however, and for the time being it can only be assumed that Labour's threats are just hluff. Even so, there is an unnerving amount still to be settled about this flotation.

given the closeness of the final countdown.

As yesterday's board meeting was made only too aware, the most important issue is the company's level of debt. This may seem like one just for the accountants, but the truth is that if rail privatisation is to fulfil its underlying commercial purpose - the modernisation and improvement of the rail network - Railtrack's capital structure is crucial. The more the debt write-off, the greater the capacity of the Railtrack balance sheet to take on infrastructure projects - Crossrail, Thameslink and the second phase of

West Coast line modernisation among them.
On present debts of £1.7bn, Railtrack

company should be left with that kind of burden. But with its usual priority of maximising proceeds, the Exchequer does want to keep the write-off as small as possible.

This is short-sighted. Rail privatisation has already cost the Government huge amounts of political goodwill. Having doggedly stuck it out thus far, and with so little money in it for the Treasury anyway, it would be the height of folly to surrender so much of the supposed benefit of privatisa-tion for the sake of a marginal and short lived improvement in public finances.

On the other hand, it would plainly be wrong to sell Railtrack in totally debt-free form. That would make it look too much like another privatisation giveaway and would encourage senseless diversification to boot. There is nothing wrong with a bit of debt, hut the Treasury extreme of £1bn would only prove rail privatisation's many and vociferous opponents to have been right all along.

Unichem strategy convinces the City

Unichem has come a long way since its days as a drugs wholesaling co-operative. In the five years or so that the company has been listed on the stock market, it has built itself into the nation's biggest inde-

would be cash-negative for many years; there would be precious little new investment of any sort. Even the Treasury isn't arguing the chain as well, creating a new household name on the high street - Moss.

on the nigh street - Moss.

The sharp rise in the share price which accompanied news of Unichem's £548m hid for Lloyds Chemists suggests management has convinced the City of the merits of this strategy. Short-term cost savings and the potential for fatter margins mean that for the next two years at least, the deal should

enhance earnings per share.

The deal also looks good for Unichem on asset grounds, regardless of any supposed synergies. Roughly speaking, the bid equates to £430,000 per pharmacy, not bad in the antiquated world of prescription chemists where licences have been known to change hands at £500,000 apiece. Lloyds could yet attract a counter from any number of general retailers trying to break into this tightly controlled market.

Trends in the market too may make it imperative for Unichem to increase its size. We have yet to see what impact last year's acquisition of rival wholesaler AAH by Gehe of Germany has on the market place, but it seems probable it will make it more competitive. Meanwhile, the shift of household goods and toiletries sales away from the high street to supermarkets has proved bad for groups like Lloyds, which followed a drug-store approach to retailing. Unichem is rightly emphasising the importance of the pharmacy side of the business and plans to take Lloyds firmly back in that direction.

Unichem-Lloyds deal creates biggest chain of chemists

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Unichem, the pharmaceuticals retailer and wholesaler, yesterday agreed a £548m offer for rivals Lloyds Chemists to leapfrog Boots as the UK's largest chain of chemists. The combination will result in a chain of 1,300 retail outlets, 100 more than Boots the Chemists, which will trade under the Moss Chemists name. Unichem will also lead the market in drugs wholesaling, with a share of around 35 per cent.

Jeffery Harris, Unichem's chief executive, said the takeover offered the company "a unique chance to create one of Europe's strongest healthcare groups".

ing offered 232p in cash plus ution husiness, on top of three three shares they own, or a par-tial cash alternative of 600p in cash and 2.327 shares for every three in Lloyds.

News of the deal sent Lloyds' shares 35p higher to 401p, well above their previous peak of 379p hit two years ago, after soaring 75p on Wednesday when the company first revealed the approach. Unichem, which said the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing in its first year, saw its shares

jump 19.5p to 258.5p.
The deal will double the size of the company, trebling its re-tail market share from 3.5 per cent to 11 per cent and raise its

stake in the wholesaling market from a current figure of 32 per

Despite its vastly improved market position, Unichem expects few problems from the regulation authorities. It is understood that management has been in discussions with the Office of Fair Trading for over a month and is well aware of any likely requirments to meet competition concerns.

Mr Harris said: "We believe the retail merger would create no difficulties for us. You would expect that, as our market share is very similar to Boots in that area." However, he said they did expect to be forced to sell two of the 10 warehouses owned by Lloyds' Daniels Pharmaceuti-Llovds shareholders are be- cals prescription drugs distrib-

Unichem expects to reap sav-ings of £15m in the first full year of the merger, rising to £20m in the second. Having completed a review of Lloyds' sites, the expectation is that 30 of the 924 pharmacies will be disposed of and several head offices closed. Unichem estimated pre-tax profits of at least £49.3m in the

year to last December, up from £44m in 1994, before expected rationalisation costs for Lloyds Out of flat earnings per share

Lloyds' directors, led by

chairman Allen Lloyd, have

recommended acceptance of

the bid. Mr Lloyd, who is on a

two-year contract at £510,000 a

year, owns or controls a 7.5 per cent stake in the company, val-

ued at £38m under the terms of

the offer. He has committed his

own beneficial holding to the

Lloyds has only recently

started to rehabilitate itself af-

ter several years when it faced

criticism in the City for its ag-

gressive use of acquisition pro-visions, lack of financial

information and shortage of in-

dependent voices on the board.

Takeover rumours have swirled

round the company since last March, when its shares plunged

after it announced the closure

of over a quarter of the Super-

of 18.8p, the company intends to pay a final dividend of 5.3p, raising the total for last year by



Sweet success: Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, was cheered by the football club's record interim results, announced yesterday

Player sales prove a winner for Spurs

DAVID HELLIER

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday reported half-year profits of £7.14m due largely to the early season £5.5m sale of Nick Barmby to Middlesbrough. The sale was seen as controversial at the time, given that it came on top of the departure of Jürgen Klinsmann who left after a one-

year stay to play in Germany. Excluding player trading, the

core husiness of the company

The growth excluding player transfers was due mainly to increased revenues from new sponsorship deals with Hewlett Packard and Pony, higher television fees, higher gate receipts, and increased profits from merchandising.

Alan Sugar, chairman, said the record interim results were pleasing and continued to re-

certainly reflects the renewed optimism surrounding the football club as an investment. In September the shares were 167p on the announcement of the annual results. Yesterday they touched 254p, a high for the year and a 5p increase on the day after the interim results

John Sedgwick, finance di-

produced a half-year profit of flect the true potential of Tot-£2.33m against £590,000 last tenham Hostpur. rector, conceded that a rights is-sue might be a financing option now very strong, after a slow year. The company's share price if the club decided to develop start to the season, he said. its North Stand at White Hart Lane to increase capacity by

3,500-4,000. The cost is likely to be around £6m but there has no been no decision yet on whether the project should go ahead. ahead would probably be tak-

He said a decision to go en only if the ground's current capacity (around 33,000) continued to be tested on a regu-

Bleak outlook for Fokker

A dividend of 1.5p per share is being paid to shareholders, which should be worth around £120,000 to Mr Sugar, who owns nearly half the shares. Recently the club announced its intention to instigate a progressive dividend policy in the hope of attracting more insti-tutional shareholders to buy and hold the stock.

Virgin named for Gatwick rail service shortlist

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

rie stepsi

ar of word

This hattle

Richard Branson's Virgin group has been shortlisted for the rail franchise to run the Gatwick Express shuttle service between the airport and London's Victoria station.

In a statement issued while Mr Branson is trying to fly around the world by balloon, Virgin said it was very pleased to have the chance of using its "wide ex-

to run the trains. Virgin faces competition for the franchise, which is one of four for which bids are due on 1 March, from a management buyout team, the bus group Prism, and possihly one other.

Committed: Allen Lloyd,

who owns 7.5 per cent

Gatwick Express, the smallest franchise on offer, is one of the few on the rail network which faces direct competition from another operator running

pertise from the travel industry" a very similar service. Network which operates Gatwick air-SouthCentral, one of the other franchises now being offered, provides a slightly slower and slightly cheaper service from Gatwick to London. The winner of the Gatwick

Express franchise will not be responsible for any stations and will provide a simple shuttle operation, making it attractive to existing travel businesses such as Virgin. However BAA,

port, has not pursued its initial interest

The list of bidders for the other three franchises reveals no new names from those involved in the first round, which involved two successful managment huy-outs and one private success, Stagecoach. The bus company again figures in the list, having been shortlisted for East Coast Main Line and Network

SouthCentral - where it has fray to try for the East Coast formed an alliance with the management team - but has failed to obtain Gatwick Express

or Midland Main Line. The existing management teams are hidding for all four franchises on offer this time. Other bidders include Prism, Compagnie Generale des Eaux which is interested in Network SouthCentral, and Sea Containers, which has re-entered the

The first three franchises are expected to start operating in the private sector on Sunday 4 February, according to transport industry sources. The transfer has to take place early in the morning when no trains are running and public relations specialists are desperately trying to find a way of giving the services

they would have been charged alongside Leeson.

However, it appears that Mr Bax, in particular, gave considerable assistance to the CAD

and was sufficiently trusted to

be allowed out of the country

at least twice on business and

once for a family holiday. He

was about to leave Singapore

hleak last night as rescue talks reached deadlock. Fokker shares plunged 20 per cent after the company's parent. Daimler Benz. and the Dutch government, failed to agree on a capital injection. The Daimler board meets on Monday to decide its next step, but analysis were pessimistic. Ben van Schaik, Fokker chairman, said: 'I still haven't given up hope that we can reach a solution, but the chances are getting smaller."

IN BRIEF

The future of the beleaguered Dutch aircraft maker Fokker looked

Select Committee calls in BZW

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the Government's advisers on privatisation of the nuclear industry, have been summoned to appear before the House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee next Tuesday. The Comittee is conducting a wide-ranging enquiry into the planned sale hut BZW had argued that, as its advice to the Government is confidential, it might not be appropriate for it to give oral evidence in public. The bank is expected to be questioned on the industry's multi-hillion pound liabilities.

Bristol & West shuts out 'carpetbaggers'

Bristol & West Building Society yesterday moved to shut out "carpetbagging" speculation on a possible floration or takeover by raising to £2.500 the minimum needed to open new Select, Share. Premier Saver and Premier Accounts.

Spanish losses prompt Guinness warning

Guinness warned that full-year profits would be hit by a further £39m restructuring in Spain - hringing the total charges disclosed this year to £64m. The shares closed 14.5p down at 474.5p, wiping almost £300m from the stock market value. Guinness said further cuts were needed because the Spanish market was flat.

Jobless figures boost Dow

Shares and bonds rose in the US after new figures suggesting the economy remained weak. The Dow was nearly 20 points higher at 5085,69 by early afternoon and the yield on the henchmark long Treasury bond fell below 6 per cent. But the dollar fell slightly due to profit taking. New unemployment claims fell by 67 (199) last week, the lowest figure since the end of Julyalmost certainly explained by the East Coast blizzard.

£28m fraud hits Hongkong Bank

Hongkong Bank has been hit by a £28m fraud at its main branch. in Jakarra. Indonesia. Approximately £5m has been reconcree, said the UK parent HSBC Holdings. The fraud was unconcred on 3 January by Internal controls. HSBC said the fraud has no material effect on the bank.

--- Girobank

Girobank announces that

with effect from

close of business

on 18 January 1996

its Base Rate was

reduced from 6.50% to

6.25% per annum.

Girobank plc. 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EO Reg. No. 1950000

Singapore's Finance Minister, Richard Hn, yesterday indicated that a decision was imminent on whether further arrests would be made following the imprisonment of Nick Leeson in the wake of what he called the

Barings "fiasco". Mr Hu was answering a parliamentary question about whether further prosecutions would be made in the light of the Singapore inspectors' report into the affair which made accusations against a number of Barings executives.

"The Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) has been pursuing these leads", Mr Hn said, They are in the process of fing their report. Let us wait for it. It should not be long."

The two men most clearly in the firing line, because they are stationed in Singapore, are James Bax, former managing di-rector of Barings Asia Pacific and Simon Jones, former chief operating officer of Barings South Asia. Both men remain in the island state with their passports held by the authorities.

However the report does not suggest that either played any

Decision on more Barings arrests expected soon

Former directors await Singapore's next move. Stephen Vines reports from Hong Kong

trading in Japanese stock ex- ficial press conference held in change futures, which triggered the collapse of Barings.

Mr Bax worked entirely on the equities side of Barings' business while Mr Jones was essentially an administrator. Mr Jones did not administer the company's futures trading husiness as Leeson was authorised from London to conduct his own "backroom" work.

However, they were both di-rectors of Barings Futures (Singapore) and therefore may be held technically responsible for the collapse of the company. which triggered the downfall of the entire Barings edifice.

The Singaporean authorities nave a particular problem with
Mr Bax because at the only of
Jones, it is almost certain that

the wake of the Barings collapse last February they highlighted a letter he sent to his superiors in London warning of the lack of control over Leeson's activities, pointing out that despite his position, he had no role in supervising Leeson's work. The anthorities used this letter to demonstrate that Barings had been warned, from the inside,

the futures market trading. The inspectors handed over their report to the Minister of Finance last September. However, the outlines of its contents were known around last July. Had there been a strong case against either Mr Bax or Mr

but can only be returned to Sinabout the problems arising in

again, with the permission of the CAD, at the time the inspectors' eport was made public. Other Barings directors in London, such as Peter Norris. the former chief executive officer of Barings Investment Bank, were slated in the report

gapore after extradition proceedings which would have to prove the existence of a criminal offence under English law. The authorities are acutely aware of the dangers of moving

solely against the expatriate directors based in Singapore, not least because of the signal it would send to other foreign investors with staff stationed there. Moreover, such a move might encourage foreign directors of companies hased in Singapore to leave at the first

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Crunch time arrives for Forte

It is crunch time for Forte shareholders, who must make up their minds by Tuesing is not a demanding price to pay for bid for the hotels group. With only days merger further down the track could to run, it is a close call and for once the release even more value. Accept the 15 per cent of Forte's shares in private cash and shares offer and hold on. shareholders' hands might have an influence on the outcome.

In what has been a dramatic, highly personalised bid, the management records of both sides have been wellrehearsed. Forte shareholders are aware, and the chart below confirms the fact, that over the past five years their company has been a dismal performer compared with Gerry Robinson's Granada. But that is of little consequence now - looking forward they have to answer three questions.

What will happen to their Forte shares if the bid fails? Should they sell in the market? Or should they accept

Granada's cash and paper and hold on? Forte has attempted to pre-empt the first question by attempting to create a floor for its share price at 330p with the offer of a share huy-back. But this will only go ahead if it enhances earnings, so it is hardly a copper-bottomed promise and the shares are still likely to be valued on fundamentals. As a much more cyclical business now it has agreed to sell its restaurants operations, a small discount to the market on forecast earnings is reasonable - this implies

a share price in the 300p to 320p range. Is the bid a fair price? Yes, if not a knockout hlow. At a 32 per cent premium to Forte's share price before the offer, it represents a prospective p/e ratio of 25 and as Granada's share price rises, so does the value of the offer.

At yesterday's close of 696p, almost back to its pre-bid level, Granada's share price values Forte at 388p, leaving the value of the 362p cash alternative well behind. The latter is no longer relevant with Forte's shares yesterday at 381.5p. The other full cash option, selling in the market, only makes sense if you believe either that the bid will fail or that Granada will not continue to he a good bet.

So the last question is the most important. How good an investment will Granada be? Probably a good one. The company has a plausible programme for extracting value from the Forte businesses it plans to keep. There is considerable scope to improve margins in its rental arm and substantial prospects for growth in its television operation, With compound growth of 12 per

day whether to accept Granada's £3.9bn a proven management team, and a de-

Hamleys magic attracts adults

Hamleys is a name to conjure with, and not only if you are a child gazing in awe at the toys on display at the famous Regent Street store. Placed at 185p in May 1994, the shares have outperformed the cest of the madeat by rest of the market by over 60 per cent, even after yesterday's 3p fall to 335p.

The price dip came in the wake of news that underlying sales in most of Hamleys' stores registered a 5.9 per cent rise in sales in the five months to Christmas. That is less than the doubledigit growth recorded by some high street retailers recently, but it is high-

Granada

Granada vs Forte: crunch time

Pre-tax profits compared, Em

Share prices relative to FT-A All Share, rebased

Forte

gift-orientated retailer like Hamleys. The group reckons to generate around a third of its sales between the English half-term at the end of October and Christmas Eve. As it turned out, the latest festive period was the third in a row in which it broke records.

The core Regent Street store, which still accounts for three-quarters of group sales, saw a 6.6 per cent rise in business. August to October traded ahead of the previous year and while November slipped a bit, December more than made up for it.

Elsewhere, the group's newer ventures continue to power ahead. Those trading under the Hamleys name were nearly 36 per cent up. Strong growth at Heathrow and Covent Garden and new shops at the Channel Tunnel and leys also continues to expose the inadequacy of House of Fraser, where its House of Toys concession clocked up a 21 per cent like-for-like sales inly respectable none the less. crease compared with little more than Christmas is obviously crucial for a 2 per cent growth from the host store. crease compared with little more than

With group trading continuing to be strong into January, Hamleys looks eas-ily capable of lifting profits by £1m to £6.2m in the 12 months to the end of this month. That makes the shares a strong hold on a forward p/e of 18.

Careful footwork at Tottenham

Investing in football clubs is rarely a guarantee of a steady ride but the trials and tribulations that have beset shareholders in Tottenham Hotspur since it came to the market have been enough to try the patience of the most equable investor.

Tottenham's shareholders, as well as their supporters, have suffered their fair share of shocks. Football Association fines, the sudden loss of Jürgen Klinsmann, the wrangling with Terry Venables - all have buffeted the share price.

But in recent months there has been relative calm. At last Alan Sugar, the chairman, appears to be getting the business as well as the team in order and the shares have responded. In September, when the annual results were announced, the shares stood at 167p. Yesterday they were up 5p at a new high of 254p on the back of halfyear results that showed profits of £2.33m, excluding player transfers, and an interim

dividend payment of 1.5p per share.

Can the shares go higher still? On the downside there is the £6m or so that may be needed to develop the North Stand to take capacity at White Hart Line up to around 37,000. Mr Sugar might decide he wants to cash in on part of his near-50 per cent investment. And the team manager, Gerry Francis, will almost certainly want to put his hand in the pot to sign new

Against that, the increased revenues from television, sponsorship deals and merchandising these days give football clubs a much larger potential for profits. In Tottenham's case merchandise sales, sponsorship and advertising represent

37 per cent of turnover. Shareholders intending to buy into the stock probably need to tread as carefully as ever given its recent steady rise. On the other hand there is a growing feeling that the City is at last warming to the attrac-tions of football clubs, viewing them more favourably as leisure businesses with real growth potential. Be warned, however, the shares are extremely illiquid.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Robin comes rolling out of the financial ashes

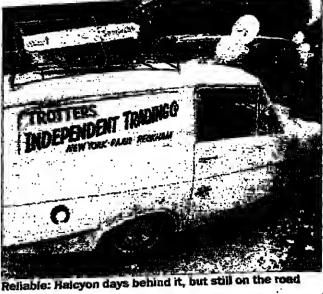
The three-wheeled Phoenix that is the Reliant Robin is rising from the ashes of insolvency - again. Reliant Motors, which went bust for the third time in four years just before Christmas, is up for sale, proving that the fibreglass horror can still survive in the face of industrial logic after more than 60

years.
"Dealers are crying out for the car," said administrator Kevin Murphy. So far we have had 50 inquiries for the company, some of them very serious.

Unfortunately, this sudden show of interest came too late for the bulk of the workforce. The administrators sacked 95 people only last week. That leaves Reliant - a subsidiary of the private engineering components company, Avonex - with just 12 employees and about 80 cars in production - a far cry from the halcyon days of the mid-1970s when it turned over more than £30m and employed 3.700 people in even factories. Then the Robin (which is still taxed as motorcycle) was being produced at 330 a week, taking remarkable 1.25 per cent of the UK car market.

Nothing, however, could disguise the fact that the Rohin had a tiny engine, un-certain road holding, limited luggage space, and a price tag that made it more expensive than many four-wheelers. And when Reliant's much-acclaimed Scimitar GT and GTE (Princess Anne did wonders for sales when she

The financial tribulations of the scatterbrained Duchess of York have the insolvency profession salivating like Pavlov's dog. John Alexander, head of insolvency at Pannell Kerr Forster, points out that the Duchess could face bankruptcy and might like to consider the more palatable alternative of an "individual voluntary arrangement". He notes that as a bankrupt the footloose one could be turfed out of her rented home PDQ. Not so under a voluntary deal where creditors could allow her time to adjust to a more frugal lifestyle.



was caught speeding in one) began to get too long in the tooth it was downhill all they

Evidence emerges that Lazard Brothers is taking its role as adviser to Granada too seriously. Lunch guests at the merchant bank yesterday were astonished to be served a mixed grill consisting of hacon, kidneys, sausages, fried mushrooms and (of course) chips. Limp

chips to be precise. They'll be selling petrol

City advisers are moving east in their increasingly desperate search for takeover hid code names. Yesterday's £550m agreed bid by

Chemists provided the novel tags of Ukraine and Latvia. Students of current affairs will quickly realise that this represents a dangerous precedent that can only lead to tears before bedtime. Supnose the hid target had been dubbed Chechaya (yes, I know it doesn't begin with C. hut just suppose). You can imagine the potential for confusion given the current.

"It could have been a lot worse," agrees a Ukrainian adviser.

The chatter in telephone circles is that it will be an American who eventually takes on the vacant chief executive role at Cable & Wireless. The telecommuni cations giant has already changed its articles of association to allow a foreign-born leader and the name in the frame is Dick Callahan, the statesmanlike president of US West International one of the biggest cable companies in the UK. Mr Callahan has the advantage that he is already based in London.

Laura Ashley loses out in US fashion stakes

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Pre-Christmas sales at Laura for-like sales were 4.8 per cent pany's garment offer for this brands were strong sellers.

Ashley, the fashion and home up on the same period last market". In Continental Eufurnishings retailer, were hit by a poor US reception to the company's winter clothes ranges.

The company, one of several retailers to report mixed trading fortunes, said sales for the 24 weeks from 30 July were 1.7 per cent up on 1994 on a like-for-like basis, and broadly flat in total.

year, and 2.5 per cent ahead in

Laura Ashley saw a big im-provement in UK sales, up 12.2 per cent in the eight-week period on a like-for-like hasis. But in North America sales fell 7.7 per cent.

The company said that the

rope, like-for-like sales over ton, chairman, added a note of was 6 per cent down on the the same eight-week period

rose 7.1 per cent. grew on a like-for-like basis by 8.6 per cent. Recently relitted

ACCOUNT TITLE

In the eight weeks immedi- conditions, combined with the period. Thornton's Continental

caution. "This performance, alhas 7.1 per cent. though good, has not recovered the sales lost during the very hot chocolate group, said sales in the four weeks to 24 December of franchise units during the last year continues to have a significant impact on our business stores achieved a sales increase at the present time. Alternative ahead in seeking to turn WEW US decline was "due to market of 15.6 per cent over the same outlets are sought," he said.

turnover in the four weeks of Christmas and new year trading

same period last year. James Millar, recently ap-pointed chairman, said: "While there is some encouragement in the improvement in like-for-like sales since last November, there is clearly an enormous task around, and it is much too early

HGROSS *NET

Also yesterday, WEW, the for me to make any observation ately before Christmas likepoor acceptance of the comfor-like sales were 4.8 per cent
pany's garment offer for this
brands were strong sellers.

Assortments and Premier discount retailer, said that on progress in that direction."

turnover in the four weeks of The company also annome to the board of its trading company. What Everyone Wants.

From early February, Terence Boland, unrelated to chief executive Richard Boland, joins from Etam as buying and merchandising director for fashion. Kevin Gunter, formerly of Asda and Sears, becomes retail operation director.

L&G sees life market

recovery NIC CICUTTI

Legal & General, one of the UK's largest insurers, yesterday joined the growing chorus of life companies claiming evidence of a slight recovery in the market, despite announcing a significant fall in its UK annual premium income during 1995.

It said annual, or regular, premium income for 1995 was £123.4m, down from £135m a year earlier. L&G's single premiums fell to £542.9m compared with £680m in 1994. The decline in individual new life and pensions business came

against a hackground of significant falls in the level of new business across the industry" Over the first nine months of the year it had increased its market share, however.

David Prosser, group chief ex-ecutive, said: "After a poor first quarter in the UK, Legal & General made an excellent recovery, with individual new annual premium business in the second half of 1995 exceeding that in 1994. I believe that we have gained market share in 1995 due to our competitive and enhanced product range."

Shares in L&G rose 19p yes terday to 700p, reflecting the view that its business figures were better than expected. The company also said yes-

terday that the Department of Trade and industry had backed its proposals for a special bonus to be added to L&G with-profits policyholders. The bonuses will be paid in March. Lloyds Abbey Life, the ban-

cassurance arm of Lloyds Bank. yesterday announced an 8 per cent fall in regular premiums for 1995 to £121m.

But the company's single pre-mium business rose 36 per cent to £665m.

Meanwhile, Abbey Life Assurance boosted sales of single premiums from £225m tu £395m, largely based on a rise in sales of life products, which rose by 160 per cent to £257m, 169

IN BRIEF

Losses widen at Magnum Power

Pre-tax losses at Magnum Power, the uninterruptible power supply maker, widened to £1.37m from £1.2m in the six months to £329,000. The company admitted that increased revenues had tak-en longer to achieve than anticipated, but said this was not uncommon for businesses marketing new technology-based products. During the half-year, there was a loss per share of 3.07p compared with a 3.36p loss the previous year. There was once again no dividend. The shares closed 4p lower at 123p.

Neotronics in red after restructuring

Despite higher sales in all regions except North America Neotronics, the instrumentation group, fell into the red in the year to September. After a £614,000 charge to finance large restructuring, last year's profit of £1.08m was reversed into a pre-tax loss of £680,000. The dividend was maintained at 0.85p despite a loss per share of 2.69p (3.62p profit). Paul Gotley, chairman, said that the restructuring and heavy investment in Neotronics Scientific had resulted in sales and profits growth this year, which were expected to continue.

Hill & Smith improves to £5.5m

The mini-industrial conglomerate Hill & Smith Holdings saw profits jump 16.5 per cent in the year to September, despite a slow-down in the UK market for some industrial products. Pre-tax profits increased from £4.8m to £5.5m after a 14.5 per cent rise in sales

After a 25 per cent increase in earnings per share to 10.78p, the dividend was maintained at 6.2p. With continued growth in Hill's new ventures in plastic pipe and pipe supports and a return to the black for its French forging husiness, the company forecasts further gains in the current year.

Ashanti to mop up Cluff

Ashanti Goldfields is to compulsorily purchase the 5.5 per cent of Cluff Resources that it has not already acquired under its £80m unconditional offer for the company. Investors are being offered one Ashanti share for 12 Cluff units. There is also a cash alternative.

Buver wanted for UKAC

Mayne Nickless, an Australian group, is looking for a huyer for its UK armoured car division, UKAC. The business, better known under its trading names of Security Express and Armagard, employs more than 2,800 people and had a turnover of £67.5m in the year to last June. It operates 52 branches in the UK.

Premier Land optimistic on prospects

Desmond Bloom, chairman of Premier Land, said prospects were encouraging for the property company whose assets include the Aviemore skiing resort. The portfolio is valued at £81.9m, compared with £62.6m at the end of 1994. In the absence of dealing profits, however, the group posted a pre-tax loss of £1.97m. There is no dividend.

Trading 'positive' at Scholl

Scholl, the footwear group, said the positive trading performance of the first eight months had continued for the full year. Gordon Stevens, the chairman, said the restructuring of the business continued to proceed well. The trading update came at the same time as Michael Gatenby former head of correction former and vices. as Michael Gatenby, former head of corporate finance and vicechairman of Charterhouse Bank, was appointed a non-executive

	COMPA	Y RESULT	S	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Breenwich Res (F)	· (·)	-0.20m (-0.18m)	-D 2n (0 m)	
Helian (I)	Ir66.4m (tr61.5m)	k3.81m (k2.71m	15384 (370-)	nti (nti)
HR & South (F)	87.8m (76.6m)	5.58m (4.75m)		0.95p (3.73p
Magazia Power (I)	329m (29.6m)		10.78p (8.54p)	6.2p (6.2p)
McKay Securities (1)	· (·)	-1.37m (-1.21m)		nii (nii)
Mestreoics Tech (F)	20 1m (19.9m)	1.40m (3.46m)	4.4p (4.6p)	2.1p (2.1p)
Tottenkers Hetsper (I)	20.1m (11.7m)	-0.68m (1 08m)	2.69p (3.62p)	n# (0.85p)
Vega (1)	7.26m (5.7tm)	7.14m (2.06m)	34.1p (8.6p)	1.5p (nii)
(F) · Busi (I) · Inserter	7-20H (3.7 (III)	1.27m (1.02m)	5.90¢ (4.76¢)	1.75p (1.40p)

Hill Samuel

Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays

Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc

18th January 1996.

Telephone: 0171-930 4611

Member ANZ Group

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ANZ Grindlays Bank

13 St.James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF

Private Banking

has changed from 6.50% to 6.25%

with effect from close of business

With effect from the close of business on Thursday 18th January, 1996 and until further notice, Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

6.25% per annum

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rare will be varied accordingly.



Hill Samuel Bank Limited - 100 Wood Street - London EC2P ZAJ

Barclays Bank PLC.

Interest Rates for

Business Customers, Charities and Societies with effect from 18th January 1996.

ACCOUNT TITLE	RATE	RATE
	(% P.A.)	(% P.A
BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT. (Rates also apply to	-	
Partners Premium Account) - instant access.		
£0 - £499	2,375	1.78t
£500 - £1,999	2.375	1.781
£2,000 - £24,999	2.750	2.063
£25,000 - £99,999	3.250	2.438
£100,000 £249,999	3.500	2.625
£250,000 – £1 million	3.625	2.7 t9
HIGH INTEREST BUSINESS ACCOUNT - 14 days' notice.	1	
£2,000 - £9,999	3.375	2.531
£10,000 ~ £24,999	4.125	3.094
£25,000 ~ £99,999	4.625	3.469
£100,000 - £249,999	4.875	3.656
£250,000 +	5.000	3.750
CLIENT'S PREMIUM ACCOUNT	 	
£10,000 - £24,999	3.500	2.625
£25,000 - £99,999	3.750	2.813
£100,000 - £249,999	4.125	3.094
£250,000 - £999,999	4.250	3.t88
£1 million +	4.375	3.28t
BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT. (An interest bearing	1	
current account for clubs, charities, churches and societies.)	1 1	
No minimum balance. Interest paid quarterly.	1 1	
£0 ~ £4,999	0.750	0.563
£5,000 ~ £9,999	1.250	0.938
£10,000 - £24,999	1.750	1.313
£25,000 +	2.250	1.688
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. (A seven days' notice		
account.) No minimum balance. Interest paid half-yearly.	0.500	0.375

+ GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of inc tax at the basic rate.

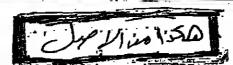
*NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tex at the current basic rate from the gross rate. Basic Rate Tax (BRT) may vary and therefore the net rate is given as an illustration only. BRT will only be deducted in those cases where the Bank is obliged to do so.

Interest rates quoted are subject to variation. For further information on these or any other services please contact your local Bardays branch or Business Centre who will be pleased to help.

BARCLAYS

Berchys Bunk PLC, Reg. London, England, Reg. No. 1026167, Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

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market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3,748.7 +44.5 FT-SE 250 4,058.2 +22.6 FT-SE 350 1,857.4 +19.5 SEAQ VOLUME 945.6m shares, 40,027 bargains Gilts Index 96.34 +0.47 SHARE SPOTLIGHT

- share price, perice

3700 - FT-SE 100

Record day leaves investors waiting for more rate cuts

Records were smashed yes-terday as the Chancellor sur-prised the market with a quarter-point cut in interest rates. The FT-SE 100 closed at an all-time high of 3,748.7, up 44.5 points on the day. Trading was heavy with almost 950 million shares changing hands in 40,000 deals.

Rumoured and actual takeover activity provided a further fillip to the session. The advance in prices was not con-fined to the leaders; the FT-SE 250 index registered a 22.6 point advance to 4,058.2.

The rate cut may have been a surprise, but investors were yesterday anticipating further reduction in the near future. Gilt-edged stocks finished the day

Standard Chartered, mean-while, advanced 15p to 590p on further rumours of a sale of its Asian securities business to Nava Finance of Thailand.

The waft of cheaper money whetted appetites on the re-tailing pitch. The principal high street groups made useful advances, notably Argos, up 4p to 579p, Kingfisher, ahead 6p to 544p, and Marks and Spencer, which rose 8.5p to 446.5p.
Only 11 of the leading 100 shares recorded falls. Guinness, down 14.5p.

down 14.5p to 474.5p, was the biggest faller after wrongfooting investors with a further £39m reorganisation charge, principally relating to its Cruzcampo brewing business in Spain. The fallout from the charge, which led analysts to downgrade fore-casts, and a flat tracing statement affected Allied Domecq, which



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

price of around £10.50.

largest high street chemist in terms of the number of outlets,

some said further adjustments to the oumbers might be nec-essary. The news winkled out plenty of sellers, and by the close of play more than 10.5 million Guinness shares were traded.

For the rest of the leaders, there was only one directionupwards. British Aerospace climbed 29.5p to 864.5p, large-ly on the back of the Henderson Crosthwaite broking house advising clieots to buy after es-timating a break-up value for and a poor trading report un-settled WWE, which shed 1.5p to 15.5p.
Rumours about a possible

takeover of Vaux, the Sunderland-based regional brewer, refused to die down. Vaux climbed 10p to 299p, a high for 1996 and just a penny below last year's peak. Wolverhamp-ton & Dudley, viewed by some observers as a suitor, held to rise, seeing a medium-term Speculation about the next takeover targets increased as Unichem, up 19.5p to 258.5p, rolled out its expected agreed £548m bid for Lloyds Chemists, up 35p to 401p. The deal will make Unichem the

steady at 592p. There was plenty of takeover gossip elsewhere to keep speculators happy. Sims Food group, which fell out of bed after announcing another profits warning on Wednesday, was in demand and climbed 7p to 38p on talk of a possible bid move by Global Group, off 0.5p to 17.5p.

sion raced ahead 35p to 8 high of 722p on fresh bid spec-ulation. Granada, despite be-ing pre-occupied with its fight

to buy Forte, and Cariton, op 14.5p to £10.42p, are the favoured bidders. Granada, meanwhile, con-tinued to look more and more the likely victor against Forte. Shares in Granada rose 3p to 696p – around the level they traded at when the bid started in November. Forte rose 4p

to 381.5p.

The Savoy Group, up a full pound on Wednesday, gained 10p to £11.30 and looks set to be a takeover target if Granada takes Forte under its wing.

TAKING STOCK

Shares in Geest, which recently sold its bananas business to Ffyles, were lively as some institutional buyers ap-peared. The price shot up 13p in a two-year high of 237p. The rise sparked fresh rumours that Geest, principally a prepared foods group, would soon fall to a takeover bid. Hillsdown Holdings, which firmed 2p to 179p, is the property of the p the main name in the speculative frame.

Surrey Free Inns, the pub company traded on AIM, fin-ished 2p better at 127p amid some talk that analysts may have to upgrade already bullish profit expectations. Analysts are expecting taxable profits of up to £1.3m for the current year to May. Surrey is reported to be one of the best run of the new-style pub companies, and there is a

yestetiday anticapating further reduction in the near future. Giltedged stocks finished the day with gains of up to half a point. Bank sbares fared better than most from the Chancellor's move. Barclays added 9.5p to 769.5p. Lloyds TSB improved 14.5p to 340.5p, and NatWest view red profit	to its Cruzcampo in the back of the Henderson Crosthwaite broking house advising clieots to buy after estimating a break-up value for the group of £12 a share. Brian Newman, an analyst at Henderson, reckooed the defence activities were alooe worth around £4.8bn – equal to 14 times earnings. He predicts BAe shares will continue by on the back of the Henderson terms of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the distribution of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the distribution of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the distribution of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the distribution of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the distribution of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the ground lost from this week downbeat trading statement and finished the day at 154 up 3p. The outbreak of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the ground lost from this week downbeat trading statement and finished the day at 154 up 3p. The outbreak of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the ground lost from this week downbeat trading statement and finished the day at 154 up 3p. The outbreak of the ground lost from this week downbeat trading statement and finished the day at 154 up 3p. The outbreak of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means the ground lost from this week downbeat trading statement and finished the day at 154 up 3p. The outbreak of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means and the forms of the number of outlet but second behind Boots, a per my firmer at 597p, wheo means and the forms of the number of outlet but second behind Boots and the forms of the number of outlet but second	da takes Forte under its wing. It is a speciality composition of a bid from Laporte, under its wing. It is a speciality composition of a bid from Laporte, under its wing. It is a speciality composition of a bid from Laporte, under its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing. Stakis remained in demand, gaining 2p to 87p with more than 3.8 million shares traded. Other bright spots included our tender its wing.
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Equity Income 17790 Intel ²⁵ 462	Burguein 601.2 8480 0.20)	.:			;	Lincoln No Sevendere SP 4565 4666 Wheterbar Life Hand M	200 200	

Pipe dream continues with another century

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

Martin Pipe passes milestones like a Greyhound bus and the most prolific trainer of modern times had another landmark in his rear view mirror yesterday as he reached 100 winners for the 10th consecutive season.

It was fitting that Pipe should record the figure at Taunton, which is both his local course and the arena that bas seen other ootable moments in a career that began modestly in 1977. In that year Hit Parade gave the trainer his first winner at the Somerset track and it was also there that be reached his first 50 winners eight years later. In September, in the oeigh-

bouring county, Pipe also posted a figure which lends testament to his enduring ability when at Exeter Runaway Pete became his 2,000th winner. Yesterday's red-letter horse

was All Clear, who was almost the target for a bullet after his last racecourse venture, "All a bad fall at Wincanton last because he bas been a victim,

we thought he'd broken a shoul-der and I kissed him goodbye in the racecourse stable. But, tbanks to everybody con-cerned, he's made a brilliant recoverv.

Earlier Pipc's Chaprassi bad the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle sewn up when his closest pursuer the highly-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Brackenthwaite (Catterick 2.50) NB: Barna Boy (Kempton 2,30)

regarded Mister Morose fell two flights from the finish. David Bridgwater's celebrations with his employer were truncated when the rider was given a four-day suspension for his rohust effort (particularly

with the whip) on All Clear. The Pood House stable jockey is 18 winners behind the pacesetter, Tony McCoy, in the championship and will almost Clear is lucky to be alive after inevitably drop further behind

"At certain meetings recently there have been jockeys being a lot more severe than 1 was," he said. "There seems to be inconsistency among the then I get four days. It's unbe-

"I will have a word with the Jockeys' Association secretary Michael Caulfield about the ban, but at the moment I do not intend to appeal, even though it rules me out of the hig Cheltenham meeting on 27 January."

David Gandolfo also cootributed to the numbers game when Garrylough provided him with his 800th winner, but the most appreciated victory of the afternooo was Killeshin's success in the marathon handicap

When his trainer, John Manners, emerges with a cup of tea each morning at his Swindoo yard it is not destined for his spouse, it appears. "I think more of this horse than my wife as I ride him all the time at home, rounding up cows," be

be some celebrating tonight." Manners' glee was apparent facially, though his words were less distinctive. "I've got my best gear on -as I thought he'd win stewards. I come here and drive one out to win the race and teeth," he said. "So don't ask me many questions."

This was Killeshin's first triumph since capturing the Foxhunters' Chase at Aintree in 1994, and be is now likely to return to Merseyside for the Grand National. Further success there would

provide for Manners' funeral expenses. "If we win the Grand National 1 think I'll die," be said. But I'll give him noe more run before then but I don't know where," he added.

secure a bonus of £50,000 and

Mark Perrett was knocked inconscious when his mount, Hullo Mary Doll, unseated him in the Yarcombe Novice Handicap Hurdle at Tauotoo. Brought back in an ambulance, the jockey was then taken tn Muserove Park Hospital for a precautionary x-ray examina-



Lincoln market sharpens up

The market for the Lincoln Handicap oo 23 March burst into life yesterday with Sharp Prospect and Beauchamp Jazz

attracting support. The former, trained by Reg Akeburst and a runaway winner of the Spring Mile consolation event last season, kept the Ladbroke phone lines busy and was been supported down from 25-1 to 12-1 favouritism.

Similarly, Beauchamp Jazz, trained by champioo trainer John Dunlop, was the subject of some hefty support down from as high as 33-1 to 16-1. One punter staked £1,000

each-way on the Gay Kellewaytrained Samwar at 33-1 with the Tote, who subsequently brought the four-year-old into 20-1. Among the other borses to attract money were Neville

Callaghan's Tarawa, Mary Revcley's Billy Bushwacker and The Queeo's Beyond Doubt -Sharp Prospect, 14-1 Beyond Dnubt, Tarawa, 16-1 Beauchamp Jazz, Billy Bush-

a springer from 33-1 to 12-1 joint-favourite with Ladbrokes. Latest betting with William Hill, the race sponsors, is: 12-1 wacker, Decorated Hero, Delta Soleil, 20-1 others.

CATTERICK

1.20 in Good Faith 1.50 Beggars Banquet 2.20 Malawi 2.50 Brackenthwaite 3.20 Political Tow-er 3.50 Master Of The Rock

COING: Good (good to firm in places). Left-hand course, undulating and starp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse, Run-in 240yds. Racecourse is north-west of town on A6136. Durington rall-way station is 14 miles away - bus service to course, ADMISSION: Club £11; Tattersails £7; Course £2.50 (under 16s free into all enclosures), CAR PARK: Members £2, remainder Free.

SIS MACING

and on Region

Br Harry Ottom

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WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-BISTANCE RUNNESS: Bather Sharp (3.20) travels 280 miles from C L Popham's West Bagborough stable in Somerses.

Lambson (2.50) covers 201 miles from J Pearce's Newmarket yard in Suffolk. Greenway Lady (1.20) & Fighting Treat (2.20) travel 201 miles from Miss A Embiricos' Newmarket stable in Suffolk. Singlesole (3.50) covers 162 miles Mrs P Sty's Thomay yard in Cambridoschire. Master Of The Reals (2.50) model 313 miles. Cambridgeshire, Master Of The Rock (3.50) travels 121 miles from J Mackle's Church Broughton stable in Derbyshire. Glen Mor-ven (2.50) covers 120 miles from W T Kemp's Borders yard.

1.20 NORTHERN ELECTRIC SERIES HURDLE

		(CLASS E) £3,400 4YO 2m
	1224	ROYAL EXPRESSION (86) (D) Mis M Reveny 115 P New
	1P	GREENWAY LADY (51) (D) Mass A Embricos 11.0 Ry
	00	ABSOLUTE FOLLY (6) Mis S Smith 10 12 No C House
	00	
		COOL TACTICIAN C Parker 10 12D Parker
		ENCHANTED COTTAGE M Hammond 10 12 A Done
	5	EUROLINK THE REBEL (51) M Hammond 10 12 R Gamil
		FASSAN M Hammond 10 12 R Burns (
	022	IN 6000 FAITH (13) J Quart 10 12
)	000	LEEDONS PARK (6) M W Easterby 10 12 J Culturing
-	C00	MAJOR SNUGFET (LA) M W Easterby 10 12 A S Smit
		TAKE A RIGHT N Chambertan 10 12 B Store
	004	THREE WILD DAYS (13) T Tany 10 12
		TOP FELLA (USA) P Dertes 10 12
		WHAT'S SECRETO (USA) H Alexander 10 12L Wy
		CRAMBELLA A Smith 20 7M Brons
		LATCH KEY LADY (USA) R Woodhouse 10 7 G J Kernnings (

6-1 Three Wild Days, 12-1 Major Swegtt, 14-1 others.

1.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,400 2m 3f

| QUALIFIER; | Warten 5 11 10 | W Pry 22-112 | BEGGARS BANQUEF (52) P Beautopa 6 11 0 | R Supple 0 BRIGARS BANQUEF (52) P Beautopa 6 11 0 | R Supple 0 BRIGARS BANQUEF (52) P Beautopa 6 11 0 | L Wyor CO CASTLE RED (34) | Word 5 11 0 | D Ryon (7) | Calendon (1) | 4 OC CASTLE RED (34) I Worke 5 11 0 D Ryam (7) 5 30 COMEDHAME (34) Marryn Ware 6 11 0 D Ryam (7) 6 01 -03 MONTHAM (14) M Harrynnu 8 11 0 P Mere 7 0-56 NANCYS CHONCE (235) J Charlon 6 11 0 B Harding (3) 8 0-0 CHARTS WARE (24) P Dervis 6 11 0 B Grather (7) 9 0-50-360 WESS LIMMPLISHT (31) F Marrier 6 11 9 A Dobbie 10 F POLLY STUR (8) L Lurgo 6 10 9 7 M Dobbie 11 31:24 RACHMES DAMN (46) J Eye 6 10 9 7 M Dobbie 12 06-00 STORMERL ARMZDN (89) 7 Tate 5 10 9 Red Garrity - 12 doctored - 12 doctored - 12 doctored - 13 Legigner Sameque, 11-4 Monymum, 11-2 Brancher, 14-1 Rachmar's Dawn, 16-1 Polly Star, 20-1 Bridle Path, 33-1 others 1995: Ingleturen 6 11 2 0 Berdey 6-1 (8) E Willerson) 16 can

et: £4.86, 7no; £3.00.

LINGFIELD

1.00: 1.TODD (A Clark) 11-4: 2. Jude Venture 8-13 (aucuste: 3. Callonoucy 8-1. 9 ran. 1, 9. (P. Machell). Tote: £4-20: £1-10.

£1.10, £1.90, Dual Forecast: £2.30, Com-

Puter Straight Forecast: £4.86, 7no: £3.00. 1,30: 1 CARROLLS MARC (J Woose) 12-12.2 Milital: 11-4 for: 3. Herry 14-1. 15 ran. 1, 29:, (C Marray), Tota: £13.70; £3.50, £1.10, £11.00, DF: £21.50, CSF: £48.44.

Treast: £465.30. Tre: £114.40 (part won, pool of £132,20 carned forward to Catterick 2.50

2.00: 1. MASPRIN (A Clark) 9-2; 2. Mr Neu-eronine 8-1; 3. Hand of Straw 20-1, 12 ren. 5-2 to Penicus Physic (4th), sht-hd, 11/4. (R 0 Subran). Tota: 55.50: £2.50, £1.90,

£10.40 DF: £14.20. CSF: £37.32. Tro:

230: 1 YOUR MOST WELCOME (G

Cateri 9-2: 2. Errant evens lav; 3. Gasandor 6-1. 8 ran. sht-hd, 3. (D tirench Dens), Total 55.30; £1.10, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £3.70. CSF:

15.30; £1.10, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £3.70, CSF: £3.24. After 3 stewards inquiry, the placings remained unablated.

3.00: 1. RAMDOM IC Rumen 14-1; 2. Fort. Ross. 8-1; 3. Newlangton Buths 11-1: 12 rem. 15-8 tay Pageboy, nk, nd. IC Jamesi. Total: £10.01; £2.20, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £59.20. CSF: £120.28. Trocast: £1,189.11. Thoi: £121.40 !part won, pool of £87.23 camed for want to Camenda 2.50 indays. NR: Thick As Theses.

3.30: 1. SIR NORMAN HOLT (D Biggs) 20-1: 2. Wild Strenberry 11:8 fav; 3. Hewer Golf Ledy 10:1. 14 ran. ::. 3.h. (R O'Sullivan). Tota: £21:30; £5.30, £1.20, £9.00. Qual Fore-CBS: £28.80. CSF: £50.18. Tricast: £311.08.

Tro: £143.50.
4.00: 1. SOAUGNG () Wester: 4-1; 2. Invocation 12-1; 3. Robellion 7-2. 11 tan. 52 far Man. 3, v., IP Burgone: Total £6.70;
£2.20. £2.90. £2.40. DF: £55.60. CSF:

Place & £131.05, Place 5: £122.47.

*THE INDEPENDENT

Horse Racing

Results 0839 - 111 171

Commentary 0839 - 111 175

				B	-p •••	
2	220	STAYE	RS NOVIC	E CHASE	(CLASS	E)
			14) W Bettel 6:			

1P 3211	MALAWI (IA) W Betral 6 12 3 A S Smith
	RUSSIAN CASTLE (34) J Wade 7 11 11
FF-2	FARMER'S HAND (35) 6 Elson 9 11 5 6 Harden 53
308-320	HEDDON HALION (7) P Creeshough 8 11.5 A Thornton
41-5045	MASTER OF TROY (30) C Parter 8 11.5 D Parter (3)
QUUB-	ROSE'S ORPHAN (319) D Todd 10 11 5
	TEMPLE CARTH (IA) P Senument 7 11 5
	FROHTING TROUT (84) Mas A Embrares 9 11 0

SETTIMO: 4-5 Maland, 9-2 Manter Of Troy, 7-1 Yemple Garth, 5-1 Rues-lan Cautie, 9-1 Fighting Treat, 12-1 Farmer's Hand, 15-1 others 1995: Crank Shet, 8 11 10 0 Byrne 4-5 U I Quanti 18 ran

2.50 DINSDALE COND. JOCKEYS' SELLING HCAP HLIPDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 3f

5-11264 HIGHLAND PARK (25) (87) R Coops 10 11 3 E Lee 0/-00006 HAUNHTON LAD (15) Parks 7 10 13 R McCarthy (4) 3/370- GLEN MORYMEN (263) W Heren 10 10 12 Permit 1 431675- TOLL BOOSH (237) I Charles 7 10 11 R Hardest 4316P5 TOLL BOOSH (237) | Charles 7 10 11 9 Hardin 16-3223 GOLDMIRE (58) (87) W Trining 6 10 10 D Perfer 10 447-640 SAFARE PARK (8) W Betres 7 10 10_ 06-P200 LAMBSON (7) J Peace 9 10 2 _____ L Aspet
06/III- WILLE BUTT (2253) Max S Willerson 11 10 0 __D Ryan (4)
PFOR 03 IHOMAS RAND (15) M Does 7 10 0 _____ F Lamby 055000- DOLLY PRICES (443) W Smith 11 100 ___

- 1A doctored Minimum weight 10st. True handcap weights: Willie Suri St. 11th. Thomas Marthurt wager, LUSC, THE INTERIOR WARDERS, WHITE 2012 DOI 2014.
That 951 11th, Doby Prices 9st,
BETTING 3-1 Brackenthouths, 7-2 Flightand Park, 11-2 Goldwins, 8-1 Altranscer, Travauthan, 10-1 Beve Do Yalsa, Tol Booth, 12-1 Hengisten Lud,
Lauthon, 14-1 Glan Morvers, Safard Park, Thomas Rand, 18-1 others
1995: Bold Pursus 6 11 0 E Calaghan 7-1 U G FeeGener, 15 cm

3.20 STOKESLEY HANDHCAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 3f

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٠t	122122	POLITICAL TOWER (41) (C) R (650) 9 12 0	_M Our
2	12312-3	ISSYN (89) (CD) M W Easterny 9 11 9	_R Carrie
3	1/525-4	JUST FROUNDE (34) (C) Mrs M Renewy 12 11 4	PI
4	322136	PRECEDE RUN (S) G Roberts 11 11 2	A Dobb
5	43-3UZU	CROSS CANNON (7) (8F) J History 10 11 1	T Ree
6	3P-353U	WAIT YOU THERE (USA) (7) (C) H Alexander 11 10	06 A Try
7	134-533	RATHER SHART CHE CHOPEN 10 10 0 T D	scombe (I

Minimum weight 10st, True handbup religible Pather Sharp Set 7th. BETTING: 5-2 Cross Carelon, 11-4 Political Tower, 4-1 leayin, 13-2 Just Franks, 9-1 Proclebes that, 12-1 Rather Sharp, Wait You Town 1985; Valent Warror 7 10 13 O Bersley 4-1 nd O Horstrand; 9 cm

3.50 COWTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

1	ZU12-35	LEN DE FAMILLE (55) (7) Quera 6 11 10 M Dwys
2	315/4/0	DESERT MIST (31) Mas L Staty 7 11 9 D Beatle
3	120111	MASTER OF THE ROCK(32)(CU) Mache 7 11 7 E Rosband (2)
4	1P3-3FP	TROUDOS (34) (CD) Nrs 5 Austr 10 11 2
5	000-252	SINCLESCLE (46) MS P Sv 11 11 1
6	020-231	NEW CHARGES (30) ? Bezanture 9 10 3
7		COLDEN NUGGET (34) E 42531 9 10 0 L Wyo
8		SINONE MEASURE (I/O) P Creedings 8 10 0R Sopple —2 declared —

Minimum weight 10st. Two handcop weight: Story Messure Sat. BETTROS: 2-1 Minister Of The Rock, 7-2 New Charges, 8-2 Golden For 8-1 Uses De Pamille, 8-1 Singlewole, 18-1 Trondon, 18-1 others 1993: Temple Garth 6 10 12 C Hawkim 9-2 IP Beautron; 6 ca

£4.00, £3.20, DF: £192.50, CSF: £249.63. Tricast: £3,165.15, NR: Mustahil. Placepot: £21.80. Quadpot: £5.10. Place &: £26.31. Place 5: £17.76.

TAUNTON

1.20: 1. HIGHTOWN CAYALER (I Hams)
9-2: 2. No's A Ring 14-1: 3. Telestry's Gift
3-1 iss. 12 res. sto-hd. 12. Ri Hodges, Somermin. Tota: 55-90: 52-00, 53-00, 51-90. DF:
539-80. CSF: 556-62. Treast: 5193-60. Tre:
647-30. NR: Star Market.
1.50: 1. SSOTISK WEDDING (Guy Lews)
33-1: 2. Cheef, Along 11-2: 3. Valuant Total

1307 L Spot Along 11-2; 3. Valiant To-id 4-7 fev. 18 ran. 12, 3½, (W Clay, Fulford). Tota: 544.20; 1450. 51.90, 51.30. DF: 596.80. CSF. £211.75. Tra: 5131.80. 2.20; 1. NILESHIN (S Camar.) 12-1; 2. Va-

2.20: 1. NRLESHIN (S Cores*) 12-1; 2. Vi-compt de Valentont 12-1; 3. Senatorified 14-1. 11 mar. 3-1 fav Surdey Bay (Sci). 3. dist. (H. Marvers), Tota: f12.50; 52.00, £4.60, £7.40, DF: £39.70, CSF: £121.63; Totast: £1.741.71, Tro: £221.00, 2.50: 1. CHAPPASSI (D Bridgester) 7-4; 2. Tom Pinch 50-1; 3. Hamging Grove 50-1.12 ran. 13-8 fav Mester Morese (tap). 25, 4, 0. Pipel, Tota: £3.00; £1.10, £3.60, £5.50, DF: £39.50, CSF: £54.88, Tro: £168.80, NFS: An-other Hubblick, Solder 8, 3.20: 1. GROVELOUGH (M Dwyer) 11-2; 2. Coolers 7-2 far; 3. Southempton 7-1. 14 ran. 1, 9, (D Gardello), Tota: £5.50; £2.10, £2.40, £2.10, DF: £17.20, CSF: £14.78, Trocast: £130.49, Tro: £236.60.

3.50: 1. ALL CLEAR () Britisester (7:1; 2. Laier Kathle wers for 3. Allow 15:1-12 tran. 2-2, 6. (M Pipe). Tota: 57.10; 52.30, 51.60, 53.40, 0F: 58.60, CSF: 52.4-5. Transf: 5111.31, 7inc, 560.50, Nr. Krg's Geld. 4.20: 1. DRESS DANCE (Sophe Markell 20:1-2. Geldings) 14-1; 3. Society Genet 12-1, 13 tran. 4-1 by Sports View (Sth. 7. 174. (N Markel), Tota: 555.50; 53.70, 54.00, 53.20, DF: 5192.50, CSF: 52-50.3, Transf: 53.165.15, Transf: 5392.20, Nr. Markell, Leither Communication (17.0), 17.00 of the communication (17.0).

£130.49. 7ng: £28.60. 3.50: 1. All CLEAR (D Brigs

KEMPTON

HYPERION

1.00 River North (nb) 3.00 Great Easeby 1.30 OCEAN HAWK (nap) 3.30 Repeat The Dose 2.00 Crosa's Delight 4.00 Swinging Sixtles 2.30 Barna Boy

GOING: Good.

Eligiu-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yds.

Reseccurse is on A308 at Sunbury. Bus tink from Richmond Underground station. Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls \$10 (16 to 25rest-olds) \$8; Silver Ring \$5. Accompanied children under-16 free, CAR PARK: Members 2; remander, free.

SIS RACING

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: N J Henderson — 17 winners from 66 nun-MILADING HAMPLESS WITH EUROLESSEN J Bennerwon— 1 (winners from to runners at a ratio of 26.2% giving a profit to a £1 sailer of £13.36; M C Pipe — 14 winners, 60 runners, 23.3%, +522.83; J T Gifford—14 winners, 94 runners, 14.0%, £10.12 D Nicholson—12 winners, 63 runners, 19.3%, -526.86 O Sherwood — 10 winners, 44 22.7%, -512.27 K C Beilley — 9 winners, 46 runners, 19.8%, -57.00 D R C Eleworth — 9 winners, 61 runners, 14.8%, +£12.23.

I LEADING JOCKETS: J Osborne — 25 winners, 125 rides, 19,8%, -\$11.90 E Dwa-woody — 22 winners, 104 rides, 21,2%, -\$24.82 M A Fingerald —13 winners, 52 rides, 21%, +\$10.58 A Magnire —12 winners, 82 rides, 14.6%, -\$28.20 N WIREAMSON —11 winners, 51 rides, 21.6%, +\$3.37. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-BISTANCE RUNNERS; Chrile Boy (2.00) & Great Baseby (3.00) travel 291 miles from W Storey's Muggleswick stable in Co. Durham. Redeo Star (2.30) covers 220 miles from N Tinkler's Langton yard, in North Yorkshire.

ı —			
1.00 EXTRA DAYLIGHT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,918			
1	15	HARSH (50) (D) (Lord Vessey) Mess H Kreft 6 11 4	
2	111-F2P	POSERIT'S ROY (105) (D) (Dies O Sout) M Poe 5 11 4	D Bridgenter
3		ARCTIC THURDER (USA) (Merthy Motor Authors) Lady Horses 5 10 12 .	E Marphy
4	45	ART DATUM (SO) (A F Merro) Alics M MicCourt 510 12	B MirCourt
5		BILLINDSEN BUT (Sk Crystopher Water) J 640rd 6 10 12	P Hide
6	p.	CLOCK WARCHERS (368) (W R Shere) J Bridger & 10 12	_W McFertand
7		DODDES POOL & J Edwards P Burgore 6 10 12	Lawrence
8		FOIL STORE GAR! Housed de Wattern Mrs J Cock 5 10 12	7 X=st
9	00	HYLTERS CHANCE (LA) (Mrs Karols Vary) P Hotos 5 10 12	G Rowney (3)
10	474.4	LORD WELLINGTON CLTS Obs T McCountrey J Jeries 5 10 12	S Pox (5)
11	P-6	NEW ALBION (USA) (50) (The Barrow Boys) N Fignderson 5 10 12	MA Restrated
12	5	REVER MOREH (12) (8F) IP O Sault) Lady Hernes 6 10 12	R Decreasely
13		REPORT SYMBOL OD Stoom M Blanshard 5 10 12	D Carlington

SETTING: 10-11 River North, 5-1 Robert's Toy, 6-1 Kershi, 15-2 Arctic Beneder, 20-1 Art |
Beneden Boy, Foil Steace, 33-1 Lord Wellington, New Alblon, Scottlisb Benede, 50-1 atters.
1995: No corresponding meeting

The few hurdiers Lady Hernes has are nearly always decent Flat recers and it's bad huck that Arctic Thunder and RIVER NORTH have been drawn in the same division. Arctic Thunder is a smart madre-distance handcapper on the Flat and is an admirably tough sort who should have the right resolve to make a successful hurdier, but he might just need this first attempt, just as River North did at Sandown 13 days ago. River North had figured in the Chempon Hurdie betting long better he had jumped a hurdie in aright and was Exocute for Sandown's Tolworth Hurdie won by Right Win. The Sandown race was a hot one and he is definitely worth another chance. Robert's Toy has almost as much experience over hurdies as the other 13 put together and has to be respected on that some along. A winner of his final three stories has season, he was conceding 6th when number-up to another decem Rist horse in Wishing at Chettenham back in September. Selections RIVER NORTH.

130 WALTON HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m Penal-ty Value £3.061

1	531PZZ	OCEAN HANK (USA) (13) (D) (Miss.) Broadhuss) N Treston-Deven 11 6	C Lionally
2	51	DOMAPPEL (34) [O] IM C Barlis) Mrs J Cool 11 2	T Kee
3	1	SOVEREIGNS PARADE (34) (D) (Paymond 700th) N Henderson 11 2	
4		LAST SPIN (29) (C) (Nis Bez Long) J Jarriers 10 11	
5		BATTLESHEP BRUKE (12) (T A Foresten) N Calagran 10 10	
6		REDE OUR TIME (USA) (B W Parter) Granne Roe 10 10	_W Househoy
7	0	DEFINIAR (CD) (T J Wholey O Sandalo 10 10	
6		XENG OF BASYLON (43) Planed J Cohen) Lady Hernes 10 10	
9		MUNICAL MENEL SCOTTE PETTERS M Uniter 10 10	
10		NEIWEST (USA) (Paul Green) N Walter 10 10	A P McCo
ū	05	ZABADI (LIR (Lady Harris) O Nicholson 10 10	A Magain
12		MANDY'S BET (USA) (Jim W Smith) N Callegran 105	S Kelghtie
		- 12 deciered -	
			48 4 B-40-41

BEITHO: 9-4 Ocean Heat, 5-2 Sovereigns Parade, 9-2 Bruce, 14-1 Last Spin, Necessit, 1.5-1 King Of Babylon, 1 FORM GUIDE

PORM RITIDE

Cosen Hawk's second to Tibetan at Sandown 13 days ago in deep mud may fletter him. It was all too much for Battbeship Bruce who was 12 m. It was alloo riding soft when Ocean Hawk made a brave attempt to concede Lisotho a stone at Exeter the time before. Migal twiston-Daywes rise an admissibly tough juvenile—he also went down fighting to Paddy's Return and vesterday's Ludlow winner Denging at Ascot in November — but mere's a line there as SOVEREDANS PARADE best Paddy's Return at Haydock before Christmas on his funding debut. Sovereigns Parade was getting 12b from Paddy's Return (Ocean Hawk was racing at levels), but could not have been more impressive. Domapped put in an ercouraging first run when first behind our kins and Daying at Christmahan in December and eight days later made all and just held Dayy Boy at Haydock. Selection: SOVEREIGNS PARADE.

2.00 RUNNYMEDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 110yds £3,061

1	344630	DRAWN FLIGHT (7) 04ts Card Davis J Jerses 7 11 10 S Rec
Ž	61	HAPPY HOSTRIE [38] (A.) ARIGIO I WHEE 511.9P McLoagella.
3	QFD-564	LUGS BRANDGAN (48) U 6 Dowler) M Bradstock 7 11 8Katharine Hambidge (7)
4	BF-P112	CROSA'S DELICHT (33) (BP) (Bespow Partnersho) M Pipe 9 11 7
5	72300-0	AUST BRUCE (B) (A M Heart) Mrs E Hearth 7 11 5B Forting
6	4640-5	ROW (15) (Ms CJ Durnt R Buster 7 11 3 R Johnson
7	406-FFF	1D-FLYING MESSAE (10) (Brest Cations) R Durino 6 105Philip Houghes (8)
а	0-0000-0	FLY GUARD (15) Blackmars, Stevers & Pelington) N Babbage 9 10 DMartin Smith (3)
9	00F/02	CERCLE BOY (45) Shebay Ltd W Storay 9 10 0R McGrath (3)
10	004-00	BOOLAYOELE GIO! Proci Murphy O O'Nell 6 10 0
		- 10 deciared -
35	गायमा सहस्र	to 10st. True handcap weights: Ply Guard 9st 13th, Citcle Boy 9st 12th, Booleangue 9st 5th,

FORM GLEDE

Martin Pipe has transformed CROSA'S DELIGHT from a persistent non-finisher into some-thing like the finished article. Having won a poor seller at Exeter, only the second time he had completed the course in 13 attempts, Crosa's Delight followed up in a more lesenty-contested seller there on New Year's Day and nearly made it a hist-tinck in a movices' heads read at Sandown. The destance sint any trouble for Circle Boy, the Cross's Delight, a front-numer and who led until collered in the first 50 yards of a three-mile seller at Edinburgh last month. That's only moderate form, but he gets plenty of weight and has come a long way to run. Flow was staying on over the last two behind subsequent winner Hade Denning over 2m5f at Notamgham. That wasn't a bad first run of the season. Selection: CROSA'S DELIGHT.

2 20 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added

2.50	2m Penalty Value £4,765
1/1360-2	BARRA BOY (53) (Lynn Winner) N Henderson 6 12 0M A Pizgimaki
	TRACE WORT WORT (42) (D) (Old Boxics Paymership) R Philips 7 11 9 J Raillion
	GALLER ING ROYAL (273) (C) (Mrs T Prichard) Dr P Prichard 13 11 7
32(311/	PEACEMAN (643) (D) (Sr Peter Gibbrigs) Mrs D Haine 10 11 4
42-4114	RODEO STAR (USA) (42) (D) (J C Brackury) N Tiritor 10 11 0 G McCount
DF800-4	LASACA (14) (D) (P Lamb) P Hotos 11 10 13 A P McCoy
311013	MAN MOOD (FIG (50) (BF) (Steel Plate & Sections Ltd) C Brooks 5 10 6G Bradley
143/14F	WYLAM (13) (Mrs J S Wootton) J Griard 9 10 0
	= 8 sheringed =

Minimure weight: 10st. True handkup weight: Wylen 9st 3th, BETTEND: 9-4 Burne Buy, 5-2 Time Worlt Walt, 4-1 Marc Mood, 11-2 Lesate, 6-1 Rodoo Star, 12-1 Peacestrae, 15-1 Wylens, 53-1 Gembüng Royal

FORM GUIDE

FORM BUDE

There are plenty in here with cleims, not lesss Tame Weat't Walt, who confirmed the promise of his earlier defeat of Full O'Prace at Haydock with another comfortable win over the same horse at Doncaster. Rodes Star was moving up nicely when he hit the fourth last and lost at change in that Doncaster race and reopposes on 8b better terms. Barna Boy's jumping, which let him down after such a promising start over fences last season and forced a return to hunding, seemed a thing of the past at Worcester on his reappearance. Unfortunately, his one and only mistake, when going strongly in the lead at the final tence, continuities ace against Northern Solder. The winner has trained the form since and a clear round would give Barna's Boy a great chance, yet one with better prospects than his ligures suggest and who might be the value is LASATA. The self-ship gleiding was having his first run aince Aoni when fourth behind Sanonus at Towerser a formight ago. Always well there, he led from the severth until coming to the end of his tether between the last two, yet even then he would probably have been second if he hadn't hit the last. He'll come on a lot for the run. Some of the horses to have come from France recently have been thrown in at the weights and Mass Mood may be no exception. This youngstar spreadingaled his field at Hereford (2m3) but pouldn't manage the error two furlances at Windsor and two miles may be his distance. Selection: LASATA.

3.00 ROYAL MAIL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,250 added

		am Livyus Penarty value 13,945
1	232-521	GREEKT EASERY (41) (10) (10 C Balley) W Storey 6 11 10R McGrath (7)
2	3229-411	TAKE THE BUCKSKIN (15) (D) (David F Wisson) T Thomson Jones 9 11 10 McCount
3	561-00	SARARI REVER (18) Bits 6 Taylor) Mrs J Rester 12 11 9R Domocody
4	35-0032	LANDED GENTRY (USA) (AD IX W Bell & Son List) C Broad 7 11 7
5	140-411	SMITH TOO (65) (O) (Sman Manafeat Mest Co Ltd) Mrs J Parten 8 11 7
6	1030-PD	NEEK THE BEAK (13) (C) (Sir Nicholas Wilson) John R Upson 7 11 6
7	30P341	METAL DISEAU (282) (U) (Frank luoy) P Petchens 8 11 1
6		COOR, CLOWER (10) (D) (Mrs. P & Browner M Pice 9 11 1 (Sect b) Bridgenster
9	30-4FR	BETTER BYTHE GLASS (30) (D) (B Syndicate) N Twiston-Doves 7 10 13
10	425-141	CARLINI GRAS (30) (M Wordster) Noel T Chance 7 10 12
11	353-032	ROYAL PRPER (NZ) (43) (A M Darlingson) A J Wilson 9 10 10
		SPECIAL ACCOUNT (43) (II) (Tony Familo) C Barvell 10 10 6 A P McCoy

- 12 declared BEJTRAC 100-30 Code time, 4-1 Take The Sectorie, 11-2 Smith The, 12-2 Great Except, 7-1 Land-

Callin Glas outstayed Goldenswift at Ludlow (2m5/11Dy) and there seems little doubt that Calife Ries outstyed Goldenswift at Ludlow (Cm5/11.Dy) and there seems title doubt that shall be equally effective over this longer trip. Sha's on a nice weight (plus her regular inder takes off another 7b) and the numer-up went on to van at Sandown, then again Ballyea Boy didn't let down the form of TAIGE THE BUCKSKNIN Notangham win by going on to finish third to Storm North at Ascot. Take The Buckskin had brained him over this ting, seeing it out ready well after leading at the fourth last, and the numeyen-old has come nghr into his own since tacking longer distances this season. Great Euseby had been pushed slong some way from home before beating Landod Gentry going away over a furiong less at Haydock. The altered weights realie at close, but the numer-up has shown his best form when there has been a lot more out in the ground. Before Buckskin is back hurding siter an unsuccessful spell over forces. He should be better, though one who has found reverting to hurding a positive boon is Saalth Tool, a Chetrenham and Haydock winner and filely to be thereabouts once more. Selection: 7ANE THE BUCKSKIN.

3.30 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £7,000 added

Ľ		3m Penalty Value £4,811
ı	P156-1U	YORKSHIRE BALE (34) (CD) (Bit Maylor) J Gallord 10 11 10
2		CLEVER SHEFHERD (64) (D) (Mass H L Crops) P Hobbs 11 11 4 6 Tomber (3)
3	65-5233	REPEAT THE DOSE (6) (AT A Wates) T Casey 11 11 0 R Durmoods
ŧ	222-225	TOUREEN PRINCE (13) (D) (Paul Stamp) Mess H Knight 13 11 0Mr J Culloty (7)
5		THE WHIP (805) (The Hon Mrs. C Yearnes) O Grassel 9 10 0
		- 5 declared -

BETTING: 13-8 Yorkshire Bate, 15-8 Clever Shephant, 9-2 Tourcon Prince, 5-1 Repeat The Dase,

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Toursen Prince dropped swey over the last two when fifth behind Smith's Band in a decent handcap at Haydock last time. The old boy still has a race in him but two and three-quarter males is his trip. There must also be reservations about Repeat The Dose and The Write over this distance and this looks a toss-up between Yorkshire Gale endCLEVER SHEP-HERD. Yorkshire Gale returned to action with possibly his best run yet, a defeat of Edimourg and stablemase Run Lip The Reg from our of the handcap at Chettenham last amorth, the didn't last long when questly fancied for Ascotts Betterware Cup but will be strongly fancied to make amends. Clever Shepherd's first run of the season, and his first in 11 months, was to go down fighting to Smith's Band at level weights at Wincanton. Taking that literally he would have besten Toursen Prince a lot farther at Haydock than he did at Dacter 13 months tago, Glerin Tormey takes the rider from Peter Hobbs and his 3th claim, plus the 6th Yorkshire Gale has to concede, may all make the difference. Selection: CLEVER SHEPHERD.

4.00 EXTRA DAYLIGHT MOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,918

	2.111	Contract that the test of the test of the contract of the cont	
	1.	HARLEQUEN WALK (24T) (D.A. Johnson) R.O. Subsen 5 10 13	D O'Sulbar
	0/3-	AMAZE (437) (Lady Kalharine Philips) Lady Hernes 7 10 12	E Marph
	002-0	DECEDE YOURSELF (76) (David F Wilson) 7 Thomson Jones 5 10 12	
		FINE IDEA (S P Record T Case) 7 10 12	
		FROGMARCH (USA) DA'S Helen Mills R Philips 6 10 12	Raittor
	55	JUST TH ACE (34) (Mrs. Joseph Abereur) J Gefford 5 10 12	
	10-00	MAUTRE DE MUSIQUE (36) (BF) (Robert Ogden) Andrew Turnes 5 10 12 .	P Carbon
		SOUNCARINA STAR (DEPO (10) (Mrs Anne Dooks) R Hams 6 10 12	
0		SWINGING SOUTHES (55) (K Higson) G L Moore 5 10 12	
1		TUKANO (CANO (309) (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenicos 5 10 12	
2	11-0	VENDOON (36) (Mel Davies) M. Helson-Files 6 10 12	D Gallache
3		RINGLE HIGHWAY (5) (P W Hists) P Hats 7 10 7	
		- 3.3 declared -	

BETTING: 5-6 Castle Sweep, 9-2 Just 11 Ace, 13-2 Swinging States, 12-1 Ameze, Hartequin Walk, 14-1 Maitra De Munique, Tritano, Vecdour, 16-1 Sommurke Star, 25-1 Decide Yourself, Fine Idea,

Jaint TN Ace caught the eye at Ascot on his hurding with his fifth behind Strong Promise. He was far from ready yet still looked as if he might get second unto stoping on landing over the last. He finished even farther behind third-placed Strong Promise in a hot race won by Call Equinariae there next time and, while that was a little disappointing, he remains a nice prospect and the 10th be gets should ensure CASTLE SWEEP doesn't have it all his own way. That is just what his been hoppening since dual bumper miner Castle Sweep went hurding and he followed a very easy win at Bangor by becong Keep it Zipped with his head in his chest of Nottingham. He looks the more finished article at present and is worth stacking with. Selection: CASTLE SWEEP.

SOUTHWELL

RACING RESULTS

12.40: 1. MASTER TRIBE (W Marstori) 31 co fav; 2. Droam Ride 3-1 co fav; 3. The
Bounder 15-2. 18 rat. 3-1 co fav Blaze of
Oak. 1%, 11. (Mrs. J Priman). £4.10: £2.40,
£1.60, £2.00. DF: £5.50, CSF: £12.28,
£1.0: 1. DANLING U Catomel 8-13 fav; 2.
Traige Hearo 6-1; 3. Torian 50-1. 17 ran. 4,
14. (S Sherwood). Totas £1.60: £1.10,
£1.70, £17.60. DF: £6.70. CSF: £5.21. Tro:
£117.00. NR: Green Crusader.
£4.0: 1. PRIDEWOOD PECKER (A Maguer)
5-1 fav; 2. Magical Bid 10-1; 3. Real Poporn 16-1: 4. Masster Burphy 6-1. 19 ran.
£1, 40. (R) Proce). Tota: £4.10; £1.60, £2.50,
£5.70, £2.20. DF: £46.70. CSF: £58.02. Ta-

cast: £730.95. 7no: £617.70. NR: Beauta

25.70. £2.20. DF: £46.70. CSF: £58.02. Incast: £730.95. 7no: £617.70. NP: Beautan.
2.10: 1. TURNING TREX (A Magare) 8-11 fev; 2. Visings 14-1: 3. Doot Tell The Wife 6-1.2 ran. 5, 174. (D Michoson). Total: £1.60; £1.50. £2.80. £1.30. DF: £16.00. CSF: £15.05. £2.80. £1.30. DF: £16.00. CSF: £1.68. Tricest: £38.14. NP: Power Boy.
2.40: 2. New Hall. Primiter 6-2: 30. Colonel Colt 7-1. 2 ran. 2, 1. (A Streeter). Total: £1.30; £1.10. £2.50. £2.30. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.73. 7ncast: £28.00.
2.10: 1. HOODWINKER (A Dobbar) 8-1: 2. Copper Coll 20-1: 3. Old Money 33-1: 4. Now We Natur 7-1. 18 ran. 9-4 for Apachee Flower. 8, 14. (W kenks). Total: £30.00. CSF: £15.33. Tricest: £4.510.53. 7nc: £220.90.
2.40: 1. SHINING LIGHT (A Magare) 7-2 k far. 2. Primbertey Place 7-2 k far. 2. Veryy-el 9-2. 18 ran. 1, 4. (0 Nechslow). Temple Gunng). Total: £4.20; £1.90. £2.00. £2.30. DF: £10.30. CSF: £16.03. Trice £8.30.
4.10: 1. SOUNDS LIKE FUN (6 Figur) 8-1: 4.70: 1. SOUNDS LIKE FUN (6 Figur) 8-1: 70. 17 cm. 6.7: Miss H Kingst). Total: £6.90; £1.40. £1.10. DF: £23.10. CSF: £160.62. Trice £3.90; £1.60. £1.40. £1.10. DF: £23.10. CSF: £160.12. Trice £3.50. NF: Mayfin Magare.
4.20: 1. DRESS DANCE Sophie Machell 20-1: 2. Goldingo 14-1: 3. Society Guest 12-1. 13 ran. 4-1 fav Spors Verw (5th). 7. 174. (N Machell). Total: £35.90; £3.70,

1.40 Northern Grey 2.10 Miss Zanzibar 2.40 Weetman's Weigh, 3.10 Modest Hope,3.40 Sar-sai, 4.10 So Amazing

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 54. HEAN ADVANCE RESIDENT IN THE STATE OF COURSE.

Fibresand surface; lest-hand starp, oral course.

Recognise is three miles south-east of cours and the relies was. of Newark at Rolleston, Rolleston Junction railway station articles of Newark at Robeston, Kolleston Junction railway \$22101 affolies the course. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tamersals \$6 (OAP mem-bers of course's Diamond Club \$4, accompanied under-16s free,

CAR PARK: Free. SIS

RIPHERED FOR FIRST TRAE: Manife Bay (2.10 L Sungaer VI) to (2.10), Don't Get Caught (4.10). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Modest Hope (5.10) and Plant Gold (1.10) was here has Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Premier Bance (3.10) & Quincil Martin , 1.10; gravel 173 miles from fi Hayda Jones' Efait leaf sta-

Jackpott not son (£9,174.09 to Kempton to-day, Placopott £411.00. Quadpott £52.70. Place & £149.45. Place & £79.38. 1.40 OYSTER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,850 added 7f

2.10 HALBUT APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 1m

2.40 SHARK HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3YO of

00100-2 RRST MATE (LA) S Boving 9 7 ______ C Tangs 41620-1 WEETMAY'S WEIGH (LA)(20) R Holinstead 9 7 _ M Wi

3.10 OCTOPUS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 4f 500000 MESSEM (95) (D) 0 Nations 5 9 10.

1 500000 MISSEM (95) (0) 0 Michais 5 9 10. — Alex Brownes 5 221005 CROSS TALK (87) R Highrstend 4 9 8 — T I was 2 6561-6 PREMER DAVICE (128) (9) 0 Haydr Mores 9 9 8... A Machay 7 4 221025 HALLBANK (128) W Harp 6 9 2 — Dole Grano 8 5 220220 MANFAL (121) Higherton 4 9 0 — R Cochrane 6 6 2001-5 AMSTOP (17) (C) R Alextest 4 8 11 — T Astiny (7) 3 7 60033-1 MODEST HOPE (7) (20) B Richmord 9 8 9 (Sch. J. Wather 4 6 60000 MODES (85) (C) M Chapman 6 7 10 ... P Feating (5) 1 827(NIC: 11-4 Michael 4 66), 3-1 Astinp, 4-1 Huthank, 6-1 others

3.40 LOBSTER SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,750 added 1m 3f 0501-33 SARASI (9) M Campeto 494.

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Hoskin flies in for Garcia

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Barcelona

Howard Hoskin, the Reading fnrward, yesterday flew out in join the Great Britain squad here after the experienced Russell Garcia withdrew on the eve of their opening Olympic qualifying match against India.

Garcia, who won a gold medal as part of Britain's triumphant 1988 Olympic side, has contracted a severe bout of gastroenteritis.

The loss of their most experienced player is a severe hlow to Britain, who set out oo the long road to Atlanta with seveo matches in 10 days at the qualifying tournament. They face a tough start when, in their opening match, they meet an Indian team who have just beaten the world champions, Pakistan.

"India woo't be easy, but we know we can beat them," the British manager, David Whittle, said. Even defeat by India would not be a disaster, as Britain are firm favourites to qualify aloog with the Indians and Holland, woo are official-ly ranked second in the world.

Five of the eight competing nations will earn tickets to Atlanta to join the seveo countries who have qualified already. Also competing in Barcelnna are Spain, Belgium, Malaysia, Belarus and Caoada – all ranked below Britain.

ranked below Britain.

ENGLAND SQUAD (Olympic qualifying tournament, Barcelona; S Manon (Reading), D
Lucies (East Grusned) J Wyatt (Reading), J
Halis (Old Lougitourne), Sonne Singh (Southgato), B Fordhem (Hourslow), C Mayer (Carnock), R Thanspann (Hourslow), L Majer (Reddrigen, cout), Themspann (Id Loughterland,
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(Hawath), R Houkin (Reading).

SCHEDULE: Today: England v India, 21. Inc.
England v Canada. 22. Inc. England v Belans.
24. Inc. England v Spain.

24. Inc. England v Spain.

25. Inc. England v Malaysa. 28.

June England v Belgum.

Warne turns the tide for **Australia**

Cricket

Shane Warne transformed yesterday's opening match of the best-of-three World Series final as Australia beat Sri Lanka by 18 runs.

The tourists appeared to be cruising to victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground before warne took two key wickets. Chasing Australia's moderate total of 201 for 7. Sri Lanka lost six middle-order wickets for 25 runs to lose their way, being dismissed for 183 in 48.1 overs. Yorkshire's Michael Bevan

and Ricky Ponting rescued Australia with determined balf-centuries after a top-order collapse left them on 39 for 4. Ian Healy completed the recovery with an undefeated 50 off 51 balls. When Warne came on to bowl Sri Lanka, baving reached

78 for 2 after 17 overs, lost the vital wickets of vice-captain Aravinda de Silva for 34 and Hashan Tillakaratne for one. Craig McDermott then hured Asanka Gurusinha into a rash shot when oo 47, and Sri Lanka's captain, Arjuna Ranatun-ga, added 33 for the final wicket

White Street Fine (First game of three Mel-bourse): Australia 203, for 7 (50 overs; RT Posting, 51, M G Bean 59 (A Heely Stro): So Lanks 183 (48.1 overs). Asstratia won by 18 rans. TODAY'S FIXTURES

with Ravindra Pushpakumara

before being bowled by Mc-Grath with 11 balls remaining.

Football

LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Connah's Quay Nomads (7.30). BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Di-vision: Sheboume y Athone (7.45). Rugby League STONES CENTENARY CHAMPS Eagles v Wigen (7.30). Rugby Union

112.0 tot Backrock College).

CLIB MATCHES Askears v Carriandge Uncersity (7.30); Bath v Moseley (7.15); Bistol v Exeter (7.30); Colfion v Stoud (7.30), Lecester V Bed-tod (7.15); Metropotaten Polac v Ester (7.45); Northampton v Walspis (7.30); Rosslyn Pañ v London Inst (7.30); Wangser v Worderhampton (7.30); Biggar v Ayr (7.0); Edishburgh: Wanderes v Gasgaw Agnotematic (7.0); Corencid Wanderes v Casgaw Academicals (7.0); Celestod Wanderes v Casgaw Academicals (7.0); Celestod Wanderes v Casgaw Academicals (7.0); Pestan Lodge v Stewart's Mexico P 17.0); String County v Grangemouth (7.0); West of Scott

Other sports BASKETBALL Budweser League: Newcasde v Dresser (8.0). BOOMING Vocamt Brosh superfeathenweight tole context (Bracknell): P J Gallagher (Wood Green)

> TODAY'S NUMBER

12,000

The record number of tickets snapped up in the first week of sale for the World Indoor Bowls Championship at Preston Guild Hall, which runs from: 12-25 February. The last three days are already a sell-



sport

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England tackle France without Brian Moore tomorrow. Jim White meets the man they called pit-bull

The solicitor who thrived in the trenches

or a decade it was as ter-rifying a sight as any in in-ternational sport: Brian Moore, England's most capped hooker, exploding from the players' tunnel on to the pitch at the start of a Five Nations' Championship game.

Extremities coated in vaseline and swathed in masking tape, he snarled out to do the business for his country, issuing an overt physical statement which said: This Englishman is dangerous. What routines, you might wonder, did Brian Moore go through in arrive at such a state of wired motivation? Decorating the dressing room with portraits of Churchill, Wellington and Richard the Linn Heart? Spending a day in a manage-ment seminar with Will Carling? "Actually," he says, sitting in

his solicitor's suit in his smart city office, not a scrap of vase-line in sight, "I didn't have to work at getting myself moti-vated. Really it was a case of scaling it down and trying to

keep control."
Which makes you wonder: what might have happened if Brian Moore had given vent to his true feelings? This year French hearts will be significantly lifted by the absence of the crazed Moore. His services no longer required by Jack Rowell, the man who more than any epitnmised the uncompromising spirit on which Gallic ambitions so often foundered will be watching instead from the press box.

"When they run out at Parc des Princes, it will be difficult," he says. "I'll know what the morning's been like, the coach jnurney, the descent into the changing rooms, the feeling of expectation as you set out towards the field, then the moment you break up into the stadium. That moment, it's the most thrilling thing."

And for him there was more to it than simply the heady realisation that 60,000 pairs of eyes were focused in his direction. Brian Moore played all his international rugby as if it were the continuation of a millennium of internecine rivalry, of which the battle against the French was the big one.

"It is a very seductive fixture," he says. "Southern Hemisphere teams may be technically more



The hooker who spread fear throughout rugby and the thinker, committed to his profession

to any Five Nations match, however hard they try to deni-grate it as a competition, is 1,000 years of history. England-France is very special; it isn't too fanciful to say, if you scratch be-low the surface, there's an ancient rivalry of such intensity it is bound to be an extra factor."

Neither would it be too fanciful to suggest that Moore's 14 colleagues did not similarly regard the game as a chance to settle scores left unresolved from the Battle of Agincourt. But then few of them have analysed quite as thoroughly as he has the connotations of

pulling on the lily-white jersey.

The thing about playing for England is that every opponent you face hrings all sorts of bagchallenging opponents. hut gage with them about wanting what they can't offer compared to beat you. Take Scotland in

1990" - he says the words through gritted, if patchwork, teeth, remembering his lowest sporting moment, losing that Grand Slam encounter at Murrayfield - "it was the height of the poll tax, we were cast as representatives of a system which the Scots felt had been imposed upon them. It definitely helped their motivation. When you've had to face overt nationalism, it draws a sense of your own identity further forward, simply

to counter it."And the sense of his own identity Moore arrived at was passionately English, an attitude which is received with much greater suspicioo than its Welsh, Irish or Scots equivalent. Hence he was cast as pit-bull, which was reinforced by a tendency to speak out of turn.

et," he says. "I always felt a sense of injustice, I wasn't prepared to let it go and if it caused annoyance, c'est la vie." Did he ever regret anything he

Not even his remarks about the Scots after last year's confrontation, when he accused them of spoiling the game, thus provoking the ire of everyone who has ever worn a kilt? Not at all. And I'll tell you

why," he says. "Because I was right. If you ask most rughy-play-ing Scots candidly, they will ad-mit I was right. But the flak I took for saying it was incredible. John Beattle, the ex-Scotland flanker, wrote the most personal, vitriolic article about me after that I have ever seen about any sportsman. him? "If you're in the front

"I wasn't good at keeping qui- It wasn't libellous, because sheer abuse is not libel. And this year he rang up asking for an inter-view. It beggared belief. I sent him a letter saying if he thinks he can write articles like that and then get people to co-operate later, then he's insane."

So Moore's not a man to forget an insult in a hurry, then. You use that. Like that Clive Rowlands quote," he says, re-ferring to the former Welsh coach's remarks when Wales were knocked out of the first World Cup about how they'll just go back to the important business of beating England every year. "That really riled. And I think it helped us as a team, on our way up, to have a few scores to settle." But didn't his opponents ever have a score to settle with

row," he says, "then you're a target. If you're on the floor, they'll tread on you whoever you are. But I guess it would have brought a bit more satisfaction to most people when they realised it was me down there they'd just done."

Not that Brian Moore has ever really objected to his image. He is cunning enough to use it to his advantage, particularly in his professional life.

"People always assumed I didn't do the work," be says. They thought I was just on the letterhead, there to get senior partner match tickets. And legal opponents often under-estimate me, thinking I haven't got the hrain power. Ironically, in professional life I'm quite guarded. I couldn't be a loose cannon here, it's just too important. I think that was the great thing

about my job, because it is so demanding, if you had mental discipline to compartmentalise properly, it was a very good dis-traction from rugby. The week before we played the All Blacks at Twickenham in 1993, I was working oo a multi-million pound professional negligence claim that just had to be finished hefore the weekend and I sent my last fax at 12.30 the Friday night, went to bed knackered, got up and the game was just

there. Some people had two or three days chewing with nerves." Which, coming from one of the most vociferous proponents of professionalism in rughy, sounds like a good argument for keeping a day joh.

"In the days when I played, it was the right thing to do," he

sionally are able to devote so much more time to fitness and organisation, that intellectual discipline is neither here nor there. I used to train two hours a day, but it was at the end of a long working day, the cumula-tive benefits of training were not as great as if I approached the task fresh. You talk to the Wigan rugby league boys, compared to what they did, our regime was a joke. They have quality training, and as importantly, quality resting. If you want to compete, we have to give our players that. Typically the RFU are going about it in a penny-pinching way, which means a lot of our players will be financially tempted to keep on their jobs, thus negating the whole point."

The big question for a man as bright and committed to his profession as Brian Moore is. why did he spend 17 years of his life weekly putting his head into the bad place?

"Maybe it's a release for excess testosterone," he says. "For that period in my life I needed a physical outlet. It was driven from within me. Plus in very few! walks of life do you get to a sit-So why did the man who

would never shirk a challenge retire so soon after heing dropped by England? Particularly as Jack Rowell had made it clear he could fight his way back into the scrum?

"They said that but, candidly, it seemed apparent it was over for me," he says. "It does sound churlish, because I've had a lot of pleasure out of club rugby, but when the hig prize of England wasn't there it just didn't interest me anymore, I was, however, absolutely petrified of retiring. I was desperately worried what would replace it in my life. But in the end it came down to this. Thursday night training is sacrosanct for a rug-by player, never to be missed. And I found I could only get tickets to go and see the Nutcracker at the Festival Hall on a Thursday, And I said to my-self: What would you rather be doing, honestly?' And I thought sod it, and went. And that was it. I knew, if I felt that, it was the time to get out. Christ, it makes me sound like a candidate for Pseud's Corner." Brian Moore in Pscud's Corner? That would be a turn-up.

Even in the scarcely playable conditions in Atlanta, Eric El-

wood hardly kicked a ball at out-

side-half before the sodden

surface and hall dictated a change of tack. For once de-

Irish, Kidd admits his team have

"a better than even chance in our

home games" against Scotland

and Wales, but still desires vic-

tory with at least a degree of style.

ing to adopt the perennial underdog's tag so beloved of the

Questions of Sport



£40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In last Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000. You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer

each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. in tomorrow's independent we will give you a new Questions of Sport scratch card. Like your last card, it contains eight games so that you can play daily through to Friday 26 January.

As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000 waiting to be won.

HOW TO PLAY Today we are playing the section of the card dated Friday 19 January. Betow are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers

coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Twenty-two, either A.B or C in the Q22 column then repeat for Q23 and Q24. THE OUESTIONS

batting averages in the recent Test series against South Africa? A: Mike Atherton C: Robin Smith Q23 Which British Formula One

Q22 Who topped the England

driver has opted to join the Indy-car circuit for the 1996 season? A: Damon Hill B: Martin Brundle C: Mark Blundell

Q24 Who retired this month after 25 years as head coach of the Miami Dolphins? A: Mike Ditka B: Don Shula C: Vince Lombardi

IMPORTANT

If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by reveating an asterisk.

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Ireland primed and eager to justify the optimism

of optimism in the air? A new coach, a new attitude, and a couple of preparatory wins have prompted a rash of bets on the Five Nations' Championship and a belief that Twickenham nn St Patrick's weekend will constitute a Triple Crown decider.

This is worrying. This is Ireland. We have been here before as well, most noticeably last season with premature talk nf a legendary front-row in the making. Under-prepared, Ireland un-der-achieved, and the only mantle they ended up playing for was the wooden spoon in the Cardiff Arms Park denouement to another anti-climactic campaign.

However, this time things might just be different, and Ireland might be worth taking serinusly if only because they seem to be taking themselves seriously. For starters, it is arguable that no other team needed the onset of the professional more.

With their conservative Union bosses dragged along, kicking and screaming, into the new era, suddenly Irish rugby began catching up with its counterparts and remonerating its international players. The agreement reached last week enables each of the 30 squad members to earn from £7,500 up to £30,000.

Now both the practice, as well as the theories, are professional, which is no less than Ireland's first professional, and overseas ch, demands. Murray Kidd, the 42-year-old from Auckland who has coached at club level in his native country, France and Ireland, was a surprise choice last October to succeed Gerry Murphy after Bnb Dwyer and John Connolly had rejected the IRFU's covetous advances. A one-season contract was less than a wringing endorsement.

In his one stint at provincial level last season, Kidd lasted less than a year at unfashionable King Country due, in part, to the players' discontentment with his stringent training regime. On the other side of the coin, he was litter than most of them.

Though known as a tough taskmaster, the Irish players have responded to Kidd's more intense training sessions. "I do things that the players weren't used to. Our training sessions are

s that the discernible sound A new coach with a professional approach has a nation expecting victory against Scotland tomorrow. David Hughes reports

reasonably short, generally not more than an hour and a half, but they know they've been out there for an hour and a half."

One of Kidd's biggest achievements was to secure a hastily arranged Five Nations' New Year warm-up in Atlanta. Leinster had played Cardiff the day before yet, upon arrival, the squad went through a fierce two-hour session. The players were told that to opt out would, in Kidd's own words, be to

The benefits of the rigorous regime were almost immediate in the hard-earned win over the United States. "It instilled a kind of confidence," according to Neil Francis, outstanding in Leinster's 10-match winning se-

Murray Kidd: Concentrating on fitness

quence this season and widely acclaimed as man of the match in that sodden triumph over the United States. "If it was the team that was playing last year, it might have been different."

With the equally well-re-spected John Mitchell installed as the forwards coach (dropped passes result in punitive sprint-ing drills) the fitness of the team shone through against a gargantuan American pack (average weight - over 17 stone). kewise, Ireland had been noticeably fitter and more focused in disposing of Fiji last November, and were clearly developing a pattern of play based on ball retention rather than the age-old Irish ploy of

I think those are games we've got to go out and attack. I dan't want to not lose them, I want to go out and win them."

The selection of the slickpassing Sale scrum-half Chris Saverimutto this season was a clear statement of intent. The recall of Eric Elwood for the States' game and his retention ahead of Paul Burke for the forthcoming joust with Scotland may seem a contradiction, but Kidd also places great store in sound tackling. With one eye on bootin', hitin' and bollockin'.

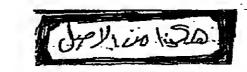
> and Scott Hastings, Elwood Bearing in mind Doddie Weir's eclipse of Francis four years ago, similarly there was a iorses-for-courses thinking behind Peter Clohessy's recall at the expense of the unlucky Paul Wallace. Pat Wheian, the team manager, makes no bones about it. "Clohessy's abrasiveness was an important consideration, because we believe this is some-thing Scotland will recognise."

the straight-running Ian Jardine

With Clohessy adding more protection to Francis, Ireland'a line-out has been further strengthened by the recall of the 21-year-old lock Jeremy Davidson to No 6. This leaves David Corkery as the shurtest of the pack's back five at 6ft 4in.

Better organised, fitter, more focused, now all Ireland need is the confidence of a first win over Scotland since 1988. With a month's gap to come before the daunting trip to Parc des Princes. where Ireland have never won, the Scottish game is very much the pivotal one of the season.

Bizarrely, given only Terry Kingston of this team has sampled victory over the Scots, a nation expects. This is indeed dangerous, but for once the Irish may be justified in their eternal



Dancing Bear cubs take to the ice



KEITH ELLIOTT at large

Blood splattered across the ice. Simon Smith, his tongue split wide open, was hauled off to hospital. It was the sort of injury every parent dreads. His father, Brian, passed a sleep-less night at his son's hedside, wondering how hadly his seven-year-old would be scarred.

A simple indictment, you may feel, of a parent's foolishness at allowing children still at infant school to play one of the world's most violent games and you would be hopelessly wrong, Simon's injury was the result of a fall while learning to ice-skate. Far from instilling a paranoia about frozen water, the incident led, in a convoluted way, to him becoming one of Britain's best young ice hockey players.

To the uninitiated, ice hock-ey is 12 Michelin men playing GBH, hushido on ice. But if that's so, how come thousands of parents are happy to let their offspring (some as young as three) play the game?

1ce hockey for teenies is flourishing. The sport is growing at 15 per cent a year, and most of those newcomers are youngsters. David Pickles, general secretary of the British Ice Hockey Association, says, About three-quarters of the players are now under 16. This is a massive growth area."

The Medway Bears typify this growth. They are not particularly famous or successful, nor do they have a lucrative sponsorship deal. The Gilling-ham ice-rink owes its design to the Russian brutalist school, and it is inconveniently positioned on a business park outside town. But youngsters are flocking to join in. At Monday's

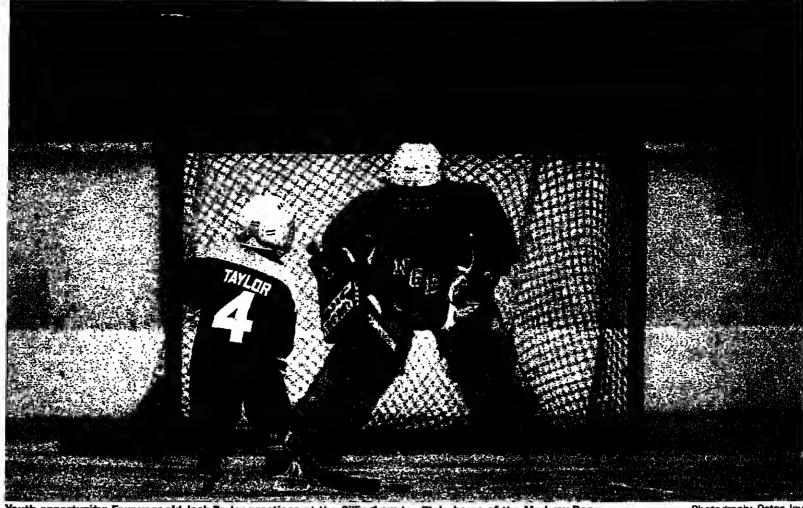
practice session for the Under-12s, more than 40 turned up, with the youngest aged just four. Brian Smith is the Bears' manager and owner. "This is an excellent game for young-sters," he said. "I think it is the speed that attracts them, plus the fact that they can get aggressive and it is allowed to a degree. But they soon learn

there is always someone big-ger and better than yourself."

Ice hockey may look like le-galised mayhem, but discipline is a word that Smith uses constantly. "I have boys on the team who would he thugs and in constant trouble with the police if it wasn't for ice hockey. But it isn't an excuse for them to have a fight. That would be letting down the team." Any youngsters caught smoking are dropped from his sides, and when asked what benefits he thinks his sons have gained from ice hockey, he replies: "Self-discipline, character and being part of a team."

Simon, his tongue fully mended, is now 16 and has been net-minder for the Great Britain Under-16 squad for the past two years. Andrew, 11, learnt to skate when he was three and played in an under-12 competition aged just four. He has played for England Under-12s and is a regular member of the Bears Under-16 side. Despite his slight stature - he is only a few inches above 4ft - he fearlessly harries rivals who look twice his size, "He is a superh skater and has such vision," Smith says proudly. You don't have to be a giant

to play this game, but you need To this end, the Bears' cubs



Youth opportunity: Four-year-old Jack Taylor practises at the Gillingham Ice Rink, home of the Medway Bears

get help from Tim Chilcott, a same meat, with a different makes the players look powerpro skating coach whose sevenyear-old son Luke plays ice hockey, too. Figure skating carries unfortunate images of Come Dancing costumes and scented rose-water aftershave. But it proves invaluable for injecting hasic skills like stopping and turning. Chilcott says: "I teach the youngsters techniques. Once they have these

right, they can concentrate on

the game rather than thinking

Just watch ice hockey live, and it's easy to see why even under-16 teams attract a following of admiring girls. You quickly ignore the fact that at junior level, everything is done on a hudget, and basic things like players' names on their backs have been made by mums rather than a pro outfitter (one lad's name, spelt out in capitals, looked more like NODDY than about how to stop. It's the MOODY). That heavy padding

ful enough to fell Rocky with a one-finger shove. When they take off helmets and carapaces,

it's a shock to see normal, unremarkable teenagers emerge from the chrysalis. On the ice, it's a different story. Even at kiddie level, the game is very, very fast. With the puck whizzing at up to 100mph like a fiercely flipped ball on an ice pintable, and the players travelling at 20mph or more. It makes even the most frantic kick-and-run

football team look like geriatrics. It's better value, too. But what about that violent

reputation? Well, at under-12 level, body-checking is not allowed at all, and is instantly penalised. "People think it is all rough and tough. It's a physical game, but it's more a game of skill and speed," Smith says. "Tve been involved for six years. and none of my kids has had a

Big rewards could be just

Photograph: Peter Jay

young players. Sky now screens the sport twice a week, the much-vaunted Superleague looks like being up and running

next year, and ice rinks love the

sport for the income it generates. With some games attracting 3,000 spectators at £5 or more a time, plus spin-offs, you don't even have to be an imported star to earn money as a player -though it may be some while before British players achieve contracts like Wayne Gretsky's \$25.5m (£16.75m).

McRae is poised for Saints role

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens expect to know today when they will be able to wel-come their new coach to succeed Eric Hughes, who was sacked on Wednesday. The Canberra Raiders' as-

sistant coach, Shaun McRae, is pressing Saints at specialist ses-sions he laid on for them during the World Cup. He could start

his new job this weekend.
"We have some business to sort out," Saints' chief executive, David Howes, said. The decision to dispense with Hughes's services after two years was made before Sannday's Regal Trophy final de-feat by Wigan, be added. Hugh-es is considering sumg for wrongful dismissal and the initial reaction of a number of Saints' players was one of dismay. "The decision was based on league performances," Howes said.

Like Wigan almost a decade ago, Saints seem to have decided that they have gone as far as they can under a British coach. Phil Larder, the one British coach who could be regarded as a contender, is being strongly linked with Warrington, who played their last match under the caretaker regime of Clive Griffiths at Oldham on Wednesday. Larder, the Eng-land and Keighley coach, has de-nied any approach from the club.

Saints will be without Scott Gibbs in the match at Halifax on Sunday that will decide third place in the Stones Centenary Championship. Gibbs, sent off in the Regal final, has been suspended for two matches.

Sheffield Eagles can establish remarkable sequence of defeating all the other sides in the division, one after the other, if they beat Wigan at the Don Valley Stadium tonight.

Sky Super League fixtures, Sporting Digest, page 27

Platt to undergo more surgery 'Rebel' clubs' cause for relief

Football

David Platt yesterday had his second knee operation in five months - and admitted that he

The 29-year-old England midfielder needed surgery to repair a left knee cartilage torn in two places after playing just four Premiership games following his £4.75m move from Sampdoria. He missed nine games while recovering but yesterday had to

undergo an operation on the same knee which revealed a piece of floating cartilage.

Platt, who expects to be out for "a few weeks", said: "The unfortunate truth is that I have Bucharest in August 1994, must have to take a pay cut, but he had never been fully fit for Ar- not been 100 per cent fit even now wait for a new work peronce this season."

He has played 15 first-team games since the first operation. including Wednesday's 1-0 FA Cup replay defeat at Sheffield United, which has prompted manager Bruce Rioch to notify the Arsenal board of three players he wants to sign.

Ilie Dumitrescu yesterday City manager, met Nigel ompleted a £1.5m move across Clough last night m an attempt completed a £1.5m move across London to West Ham. The Romanian international, who cost Spurs £2.8m from Steaua mit which could take two weeks.

day is expected to be that of the named "Goalscorer of the Cen-£500,000-rated goalkeeper Tony Coton from Maine Road to Old Trafford. Manchester United want the 34-year-old Coton as nearest the goal," said Puskas, cover for Peter Schmeichel. Barry Fry, the Birmingham first-class matches.

to persuade the second-string Liverpool forward to step down to the First Division. "Nigel will won't need to play in the Pontins League again," Fry said. Another cross-city move totury" by the International Federation of Foothall History and Statistics. "I guess I was always

also been reached.
David Hando, the Newport

chairman, and his Colwyn Bay last week to discuss the way forand the Football Association of Ward, now that both clubs are League of Wales when it start-Wales have been restored at last. when the switch ward, now that both clubs are League of Wales when it start-ed in 1992. After two years spent and Wrexham] made the switch The FAW has withdrawn its again. "We have re-established in exile they returned home in - but that is unlikely," Hando

FAW and their own grounds when they, and other clubs, to the Fifa ruling, both clubs are chose to stay in their English content to hide their time. "We counterpart met FAW officials chose to stay in their English leagues rather than join the might he convinced if the three

may continue to play in the English non-League pyramid. A settlement regarding costs has also been reached.

coerced into anything against our will. governing body, that both Colwyn Bay and Newport should be playing in the Welsh foothall pyramid by 1997. Given the High Court judgment contrary appeal against last year's High Court decision that Newport AFC, of the Beazer Homes stands that, if we are to join the Court decision that Newport AFC, of the Beazer Homes stands that, if we are to join the Court decision that Newport terday. "The FAW now understands that, if we are to join the Court decision that Newport terday. "The FAW now understands that, if we are to join the Court decision that Newport terday." The FAW now understands that, if we are to join the Court decision that Newport terday. "The FAW now understands that the long-term future of both clubs is not yet assured. One problem that has to be

CUBILING: Macallan Scotish Championships: Men's distinct playdowns: Amemore: sessions: today Spm, Spm. Tomorow: 10am, Spm. Spm. Sumday: 10am, 10am, 10am, Spm. Spm. Sumday: 10am, 10am, 10am, Spm. Spm. Sumday: 10am, 10

TOMORROW FOOTBALL: FA Carting Premiership, End-sleigh League and Bell's Scottish League. RUGGEY UNION: Five Nations' Championship: France v Englanc (2.0) (at Parc des Princes); Ireland v Scotland (3.0) (at Lansdowne Road). Swalec Cup fifth round.

Roadi, Swater Cup fifth round.

RACKNS (Notional Hunt unifers stated):
LINGMELD (AW Flat): LINGMELD (AW Flat):
All enclosures £9, (1.25), Catherloic Cub £11:
Tattersals £7; Course £2, 50 (uniter £8; finemto all enclosures). (12,45). Haydocic
Coursy Stand £15; Touresals £9; Newton
Stand £4 (QAPs naif-price in Tattersals and
Newton Stand). (12,30). Mesuptone Cub £15.
Litrars £16 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand
£10; Silver Rog £5. (1.10).

PolitinGe WBO barramweight championship:

Newton Starton, 112-30, newspanies, plants 15th to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. (1.10).

BOUNDO: W80 bartamweight championship: Danet Jaminez (P. Rico, holder) v. Drew Occherry (Classignw) (Mansieth. Decherry einers the ring for the first time since the death of James Murray, the Glasgow bouer he torocked out in the 12th round to retain his Brosh bartamweight championship last Occober. Jamines makes his first defence of this championship. Tichets: £20, £40, frigade £50. The promotion starts at 7.30pm, Mansfeld Lessure Cartre, Chesterfield Road Soath, Mansfeld, Notzinghamshire. (Tel: 01623 646082). CYCLING; Jack, Flercher Memonal Super League (Manshesser). Manchesser, London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Birmingham compete, storing at Torm, Admission: £4 autist, £2 children/concession. £10 family ticket. National Cycling Centrie, Manchesser Velodrome, Stuard Street, is located off Astron-Under-Jine. near Drydsden and reached from A662 va Cortett Street. (Tel: 0161-223-2244). CYCLO-CROSS: Notts and Derby League (Mansfeld). The justifier race at 1pm opens the 13th round of the league. Under-12s start at 1.45pm. Closstone Forest is fire mides east of Liansfeld, Notzinghamshire, off B6030. Owners at 1.45pm. Closstone Forest is fire mides east of Liansfeld, Notzinghamshire, off B6030. Owners and Cortex Notzinghamshire, off B6030. Owners and Cortex Notzinghamshire, off B6030. Owners and Cortex Notzinghamshire, off B6030. Owners of Oxford, close to junction seem of M40. off A329 Titame to Webringdon treat. Note that there is no east firm M40 for south-east bound traffic: use punction eight, the Wheeley exit and follow manor roads via Great Mateon.

SMOONGER: Academy Fort Little Calmers Schare (1945). Intuitive memor roads via Great Matton.

SMOONGET: Academy Fook Lift Women's Classic Peterborough). The first World Ladies Billands and Sinobler Association's ranking tournament of the year has 34 entires, including 11 of the world steading 16 players. Play staff at 11 sen tomorrow, with the semi-finals I 10 per judy find find (point on Surfax, Nealy fisher, the world No 3, is the defending champion. Speciating is free. Southgate Snooker Cortro, Fresham Road, Onon, Poterborough.

(Ref. 01733 2323239).

SUNDAY FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiersho: Actor Villa v Topenham (4,0), Endsleigh League First Division: Lecesser v Sunderland (3,0). PLUCEY UNION: CIS insurance County Champranship Southern Group Pool Two: Groupes-tershire v Devon (2.30) lar Lycheyr;

Seventy cars and 50 trade stands will represent every aspect of circuit racing from autograss to long track oval racing. Modified road cars such as Ford Escorts and Mondeos to single-seat racing cars will be on show. Designs from the new Euro 2000 rallycross formula, which comes into force next year,

Hierdondshire v Oddondshire (2.0) far Hirehin, Under-21 County Championship: South-West Final: Gloucestershire v Berlishire (2.30) far Chalerford). Culb masches: Broughten Park v Newton le Willows (2.30): Fylde v Orrell (2.15): Iwepool St Holens v Ashton under Lyne (2.30): Waterloo v Manchester (2.15). HOCKEY: Scottish Women's Indoor Inter-District Tournament (Edmburgh). East v West opens the round-robin competition at 10am.

opens the numb-room compension of Juvani. Last match is at 4.45pm. Meadowbank Sports Centre, Lower London Road, Edinburgh (Tel. 0131 661 5361).

ATHLETICS: Scottish Championships (Glasgow). New Hall International Sports Arena is west of Glasgow Cay Centre, on Argie Street. Nearest underground station: Particle, (Tel: 0141 357 2625).

O'CLO-CROSS: South-East London and Kent Championship (Chartton). 11am. Ipm. Mayor Wilson Park is a half-mile from Charton Villago on the Woodwich road, London SET, close to A2. Lelioastershire League (Barstall). 10.45em. 11.15am. Longslade School and Community College, Warley Lene, Bostall, Leoastershire, Midland League (Maton Keynes). First nace in mound 11 or at 11.20am, with the main event at 1pm. National Boad, Milton Keynes, Buckengharshire, enzince is ward main gaze from V4 Wasting Street, Leave A5 at A421 sto mod or Buckengharshire, enzince is ward to Buckengharshire, enzince is at noon. Twockley Woods is fine miles west of Navicastie-upon-Tyne. Tyne and West, of A69 Hecham nood. Ross. Challengh (Stockport). 11.30am and 2pm. Woodbank Park, Turncroft Lane, Sockport, Cheshire, is reached from junction 13, M63, or junction one, M65, timming south mon A626 St. Mary's Way, left more Hell Street and left man Turncroft Lane, Dussley RC (Stroud). 12.30pm, 12.

Next Week
FOOTBALL (7.30 unless stated): Monday:
FA Carling Prepalership: West Harn : Monchester (tot (8.0). Tounday: FA Cap third
round replay: Others v Samsey (7.45). An
do-limiten Cup semi-first (poset: v Por Vac
(7.45). Endeleigh Instrument League Secord Division: Bacquo : Wycortbe; Hall v
Brigton; Romeman v Stachod; Woscam; s

TODAY

OBBLING: Macalian Scroush Champonships:
Men's district playdowns: Avenore: sessions:
brody 3pm, 8pm, 10am, 3pm, Mountain Reson,
Avenore: Inverness-shire. (16: 01479)
\$10624). Durifies: as for Avenore: sessions are 10am and 8pm, (164: 01479)
\$106240. Durifies: as for Avenore: Lancistre (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. Chorage (see Morties) (see Street, Perft. (16: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store Street, Perft., Glet. 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store Street, Perft., Ide: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store Street, Perft., Ide: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store Street, Perft., Ide: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store Street, Perft., Ide: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (Store) (see Street, Perft., Ide: 01736 824189). Women's pekadowns As not Considerate (see Rink, off Mur Street, Hammon. (see Rink) (

How to get there Bertwood Ethboon Cen-tre, Dodonghust Road, Grentwood, Essex, is close to junction 28 of 1425. (Tet: 01277-215151). The show is open from 10am un-th 5.30pm tomorrow and Sunday, Admission; £6 adults, £3 children/0APs.

215.1511. The show is open from 10am unit 5.30 minomines and Sundoy. Admission: 56 adults. £3 children DAPs.

Bristol Cry. Third Divisione Marishide V Cambridge Und (7.45): Phymouth V Sunchandel Goodwenice: 18ther V Hothestor C 1.45. Spelding Cry quarter-finalis: Dover V Bransgrue (7.45): Sentoraugh V Rochdale, Gill Vambelli Goodwenice: 18ther V Hothestor C 1.45. Spelding Cry quarter-finalis: Dover V Bransgrue (7.45): Methering V Slough (7.45): Southput V Genscher V Machestor (7.45): Southput V Genscher V Machestor (7.45): Southput V Genscher V Aberdeen; Rach Rowes V Particle First Division: Article V Mcrose; Cycen of the South V Benedic, St. Idanstone V Cyclebania, Second Division: Particle V Mcrose; Queen of the South V Benedic, St. Idanstone V Cyclebania, Second Division: Brechm V ABox; Caledonan Thistle V Ross Courty. Wednesday: International friendly: Ealy V Wales (7.15): far Temp. Coen-Cole Cry quarter-final register Sundainant V Forty Wales (7.45): Endsleigh Insurance League First Division: Sundainant Honor Homestor (7.45): Endsleigh Insurance League First Division: Sundainant V Forty Cycle. Friday: Endsleigh Insurance League First Division: Sundainant V Forty Division: Brachman V St. March, Second Division: Brachman V Novel (7.45): Endsleigh Insurance League First Division: Sundainant V Forty Division: Dorusson V Alamsfeld, RIKSRY UNION: Monday: Tour match: Brachman V Forty Uct, Namera V Hambeller Weigh League First Division: Swansen V Portypool; Cross Keys v Abertyman. Pool & Division: Pool & Division: Sundainant V Forty Uct, Namera V Landovey (7.0). Pool & Caroff Instance V Caroff Instance V Caroff Instance Competition (7.15): Planetay League First Division: Sundainan V South Wales Police. Pool D: Bonymaen v Massey Jones Police Division: Cross Ed. Actic Divisions (7.15): Planetay: Long horough v South Wales Police (7.15): Planetay: Chab matches of course's Eurobe Cith 55: Siver Ring 55 christee Cith OAPs 57: 11.50. Weetmendary: WOUNDERSHAMPTON (AW Hart): Enveroe 58: artificina 510-60 recturation of viewing Restaurant; and course 515.50 for man, 12.0. Politestone 500-612 artificials free! Tattesta's 59.50, 11.20. Sedignified Particol 59 OAPs 54: Curse 52: 1.40. Translay: BNSPEID (AW Hart) as Tuesty, 1.1.50. Huntingson: Members 512. Parking 68: Curse 52: 1.20. Winderstone Members 512.50 Date: 1.7 to 22 years 58.50. Tattests 58: Curse 471 cas to burse; 54. Curse 55: Curse 471 cas to burse; 54. Curse 55: cas employees; 11.30.

Teneds 18; Course , and cars in number and Under 15; free into a endosares, (1.30). Friday: SOUTHWELL (AW Flath as Monda). (1.30) Denomber Cub E14; Grandstand Sit-Farmy Ennounce Sit Lander 186 free all en-dancies, (1.0) **Lingfield** as Tuestes, (1.10). MCAT Wichight FA Cup four round, Endough League Sector and Third Divisions, Tements Souther Cut that round and Ber's Souther League Sector and This Divisions, Subdays FA Cup fourt round Sherfest Line.

68, who scored 780 goals in 823

Plan ahead The National Hunt Festival at Cheltertham from 12 to 14 March is the most important jump meeting in Britain's horse-racing calendar. The quality and closeness in calibre of the fields pro-

closeness in calibre of the fields pro-vide exciting racing over the three days. The Gold Cup on the Thursday is the highlight of the meeting, offering the prospect of watching the big jumping One Man, who won the King George at Sandown in such style two weeks ago. Badges for the Members, Tattersalis and the Foster's enclosures will be avail-able on the day, but booking in advance brings savings in all the enclosures. Hotel accommodation in the Chel-terham area tends to be taken up quick-ly, though there is some space available at the top end of the market. Elsewhere accommodation is patichy. The Chelat the top end of the manket, Essewhere accommodation is patchy. The Chel-tenham Tounst Information Centre can provide bed and breakfast in private houses within a 10-mile radius of the town and it is also possible to find beds in hotels and public houses further afield. The tourist centres in Gloucester, Cirpoposters Straventhe Midd Strough Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stroud and Tewkesbury can advise.

Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stroud and Tewlesbury can advise.

National Hunt Festhel, Chetenham, 12-14 Alarch.
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 48H. (01242 513014).
Admission: Three-day Club badge: E120 issies close 27 January. Cub badge: for Members' ericlosure: £15 day from 4 March £20; Foster's enclosure: £16 from 4 March £20; Foster's enclosure: £16 tfrom 4 March £20; Foster's enclosure: Silver Ring! £8 from 4 Merch £20; Foster's enclosure: Silver Ring! £8 from 4 Merch £20; Foster's enclosure: Silver Ring! £8 from e120 person in Tattersals: sidet required! £20 (£25 on Thursday). Parties of 20 or more must be booked before 2 March and e115 per person in Tattersals: and £7 in the Foster's. Partient; £5 daily. (Bookings: 01242 226226).
Cassing: restaurants on course: Fortuner and Chempon's Entre have space on Tuesday and Wednesday; Thursday Ady booked: there is a visiting list for Gold Cap and the Glass-Tunter for all three days. O1242 522203.
The resecourse is one mile borth of the town, off A435. Eus fin from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the Nexth. Junction 15

should be sent to: The Sports Desk. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

Details of forthcoming events with

information on tickets and venues

RUPERT METCALF

Non-League notebook

The loog-running saga of the "rebel" Welsh clubs may not yet be over - hut friendly relations between the clubs concerned

League, and the UniBond League of Wales, it must be our dealt with is the ruling made last Endsleigh League went part-League outfit, Colwyn Bay. choice to do so. We will not be year by Fifa, world foothall's time. Anything can happen..." Radminton

JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo) Selected 66 only: Mon's stagless, encond round: P Resmussen (Den) to D Hall (GB) 25-7 15-2; P.E. Hoyer Larsen (Den) the Phreuker (GB) 15-11 15-9, Women's strates, second round: A Gibson (GB) in M Borg (Swe) Digits Net Library
NBA: Atlanta 102 Indiana 93; New Jersey 97
Charlotte 93; Mismi 96 Washington 89; Mismaukee 111 Philadelphia 100; Minnesota 98
Golden State 88; Orlando 113 Phoema 95;
Houston 120 Denver 112; New York 92 LA

Billiards Minnesota Fats, the billiards player por-trayed in the film The Hustler, died yes-terday, a day before his birthday which, according to conflicting sources, was el-ther his 83rd or 96th.

Basketbali

UTICKOT

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WORLD CUP SQUAD:
Sutan Zasavani (capil, Saeed al-Saffar Noc-copt).
Vasy Metras, Saleem Ras, Sharead Al-Raf, Shacked
Dulgameta, Samesh Mykagynam, Syed Advir
Saeed, Nazhar Hussern, Arshad Luo, Mohammed
Aslam, Johnn's Samerajelera, Imaga Abbasi (wid.,
Isheq Mohammed.)

Football Derby yesterday revealed plans build a new 30,000 seater stadium on B site in Pride Park – despite starting work on redeveloping the Baseball Ground. AFRICAN NATIONS* CUP GROUP B (Bloomtontain, SA): Algera 2 (Mescabi 41, 63) Sierra Leone 0.

Leone O.

FAI HARP LAGER CLIP First Round: Weyco'c Celoc

2 Cherry Orchard 1.

TRANSFERS: Genth Worbuys (tonward) Darlingten to Northampton; Geny O'Consor Hearts to Doncasser; Mark Stallerd (tonward) Darly to Bradfard

City.

WEDNIESDAY'S LATE RESULTE: FA Can third-

HANSPERSC. General Wordsoner Hearts to Doncesser, Mark Stalland Roward Debty to Bradford
Cay.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESILLTS: FA Day thirdround register Marchester City 5 Levestian City 0
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away to QFRI: North Forest 2 Stoke 1 (Northpharm Forest at home to detart Unit: Sheffield Unit
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SPORTING DIGEST ca 3 Ceta Vigo D (negregose 4-1), Portuguese Languez Porto 2 Gal Vicente C. Priendilyz Ander-lacht 2 Ajex 2.

The English Golf Union has been awarded £650,000 from the National Lottery towards the construction and development of the teaching academy at its National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa, Lincoinshire.

HALAYSIAN OPEN (Kinde Lumpur) Leeding Best-round scarces: 68 S Flooch (U.S., 67 C Perm (U.S.). 68 M Marrat (Sing), 69 A Celha (Ger), 70 G. Joyn-er (Aus); 5 Tatti (Aus); D Clarke (N Vir. S Torronce (Sco); R Brobio (Phi); Shoich Kuwabara (Japan). Coc); R Brobin (Phi); Shotch' Ranebora (Lopana).
SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN (Cape Town) Leading first-round scoves (SA whiese stayed): 65 E.E. 66) Leggat (Can); D Howell (Engl., 67 K Stone. 69) -C Carrison (Fr); M Schotz; C Dawson (Engl.; P Bissine, 70 N Ganch; R Keptar; 7 Dockle (Nam); Ray Freerren (LIS); D James, 71, O W Basson; M Archer, R Goosen, D van Staden; S van der Merwe; M McNuthy (Zm); P Jones; J McHenry (Rep. W Contace, BOB HOPE CLASSIC (Peins Desart, Calif) Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 68 M Brooks; B Karren, 67 M Calcasecthe; J D Biske: O Harmond. 68 J Hase, I Rhiver, T Kim. F Altern (SA); M Springer. 69 P Goydos: J Deting: C Paulson; J Huston, A Bean; N Heries; J Surran; J Adams; S Jones, S Gurny; B Letche; J Maggert, Selecthek 72 S Lyle (GB).

ice hockey MRLE Buffalo D Pittsburgh 1: Detroit 3 Colorado 2: NY Islanders 3 Hardford 6: Ottawa D Montreal 3: Tampa Bay 5 Son Jose 4: Tomnio 2 Wanapeg 4: Chacapo 2 Washington 3: Dellas 3 Edmonton 4: Anshern 1 Calgary 4. Chysteric Qualiffrant TournMateur (Lindquae, Slowes): Slovenia 4 Great Britain 5.

Rugiby Union

ENGLAND A (v France A, Jean Books Stadium,
Parla, today): TR B Stimpson (Mest Hartiepool):
P A Hall (Bristol), W J H Groemwood (Hartequre),
P Menseh (Hartiguris), A Adobsoy (Berti: A King
(Bristol Univ.), ACT Gossaraali (Masos); R Hardwicke (Concentry), P B T Greening (Boucester),
D Barforth (Lecaster), G S Archer (Bristol), D
Stamus (Gloucester), M Corry (Bristol), R JoridIns (Hartiguris), A J Diprose (Sarciers, capo).
RELAND A (v Scotland A, Donsybrook, Dublin,
today); C O'Steas (London Insh); S Mason (Orreb.), Gallagher (Hartiguris), B McCahill (Surchy's Well), N Whoods (Blochota, College): D
Hamphreys (London Insh), A Rolland (Blochota,
College, capt); P Havin, B Byrne, P Welliace (all

Sactrock Colege), D Treese (Jollymens), M (Titlelly, V Costello (Ioan St Mary's Colege), E Miller (Leicester), A Foley (Shannon).

Calcustar). A Folory (Shannon).
SCOTLAND A S Lung (Honort's FP): C Gleeglow Chenor's FP), B Shiell (Mehmet). R Editation Contacts, Javanous Contacts, Javanous Contacts, Javanous Contacts, Javanous Contacts, Javanous Chenoris Contacts, B Named (Editating County, D Crossin (Bougas), P Watton (Newcastle), J Amos (Gala).
B Resmoke (Hougla)

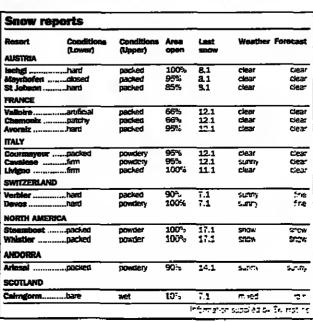
Rugby League

SKY SPORTS the Super Langue flutures (Pridays 7:30, Saturdays 8:D unless stated): Fri 28
Mar: Pars v Sheffickt, Sat 30: Oldhem v Wegan.
Thura 4 April: London Pers file tou). Fri 15: St.
Heitens v Wegan flo thei. Non 8: Leeds v St. Helens file thou, Fri 12: Womengon v Heites. Set
13: Oldhem v Leeds. Fri 13: Wegan v Bradbrd.
Sat 20: Casteford v Oldhem. Fri 3 May;
Sheffield v Casteford. Sat 4: Wordengon v Heifile. Fri 12: Pars v Leeds. Sat 12: London v St.
Heitens file thousand v Wegan. Fri 24: Bradford v
Leeds. Sat 22: Womengon v London. Fri 24: Bradford v
Leeds. Sat 22: Womengon v London. Fri 24: Casteford v Wermgion. Sat 1 James Leeds v Wegan.
STONES CENTERLARY CHAMPHONSHIP (Wednesday): Oldham 30: Warmgion 19: St Heitens
48: London Bronces 18: Second Division
(Wadnesday): Barrow 23 Chorley 21; Hurstet 24
Bramley 18; Legh 33 Carlete 22.

GUANGZHOU MASTERS (Chice): Final: 1 Dra-go (Marta) to S Davis (Eng) 6-2.

SUBBO
NEW YEAR GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tologo) 12th day of 12th Austriaeum (non 6, bot 6) it Tomerahard (6-6i) Higmaum (7-5) it Dastu (6-6i) genshib (6-6) by Krashma (6-6i) genshib (6-6) by Krashma (6-6i) and (6-6i) by Krashma (6-6i) to Krashma (7-5i) tomekasuga (6-6i) Maroum (8-4i) by Namondonia (4-6i; Yangaba (6-6i) Maroum (8-4i) henko (6-6i) ti Autosmra
(6-6i) Krashachudo (4-8i); Henko (6-6i) ti Autosmra
(6-6i); Kotocepu (3-9i) ti Margama (4-5i); Kotocovia (4-8i) hi Maratolio (3-9i); Asahyuda
(6-6i); Kotocepu (3-9i) ti Margama (4-5i); Kotocovia (3-9i); Margama (8-4i); Tokacovia (6-6i); Kotocovia (3-9i); Maratolio (6-6i); Asahyuda
(8-4i); Maratolio (8-4i); Tokacovia (14-1i); Maratolio (6-6i); Tokacovia (6-6i); Tokacovia (14-1i); Maratolio (6-6i); Tokacovia (14-1i); Maratolio (6-6i); Tokacovia (14-0i); Tok

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Mee's singles second round: 1 ENQVIST 15wer bt. 4 Varnes (Rom) 6-4 6-1; M.Woodford 14xs) tr. N.Sa-ner (Gen 6-4 6-1 6-4; R. Furlan III) bt. A Costa



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See Page 26



Defeat the only way forward for England

DEREK PRINGLE reports from East London

Another tour is over, and another series has been lost. Nothing surprising there. After all, the England team's ailmeots are well known and stem directly from the domestic game. Yet in spite of this incootrovertible fact, the usual autopsies will still be performed and the same old solutions proposed before being promptly ignored. As far as har-bingers of change are concerned, it is an excercise in futility akin to dissecting a headless cadaver, simply in order to ascertain

Most of us know that, when it has always responded to, though

el of performance needed to win a long series rather than just the odd game, England, their captain excepted, are consistently lacking in focus and application.

It is a weakness that has been symptomatic of England's cricket for some time, veiled by individuals such as Ian Botham, David Gower and Graham Gooch. Like Gooch before him, Michael Atherton has had to carry the batting to such an extent that it leaves him with little to give to his team, especially when their morale and performance have needed to be raised. However, his ability to lead with his bat, particularly in Test matches, is something his team

in the current one-day series, where the sheer fatigue of a long tour bas led to an indifference bordering on the gung-ho.

An approach that must be tempered if England are to come away with anything from the two remaining one dayers. The first, starting here this afternoon, the other in Port Elizabeth on Sunday. Asked what he thought of the one-day series, Atherton, still smarting over the lost Test match, said: "We came here to win the Test series. The one-dayers are a bit of fun at the end." It was a comment that ill-becomes his vision and style, and one that has rarely brought England success in any form of cricket. But Atherton's men are tired,

et they have played on this tour, but from the deep-seated fatigue caused by performing and travelling on a relentless year-round treadmill. Understandably, their cricket often lacks the meanness that characterises competitive sides with

limited talent, and too often

their cricket has fallen foul of

avoidable carelessness.

No other team in the world plays during a northern summer, unless they are touring England. Next winter England had been promised a Christmas at home. Instead they will play two away series with a three-day window between them - the first in Zimbabwe and the second in New Zealand, and instead of re-

turning home they fly straight from Harare to Auckland. However, if the internation-

programme cannot be reduced, then the domestic one must be, although both would be greatly enhanced by bolder cuts than the cosmetic surgery occasionally applied to appease the swelling ranks of dissenters. Strangely, it is not a view

shared by the England manag-er, Raymond Illingworth, who, in craggy Yorkshireman mould, rebuffed the claim that modern tours are far more bectic and demanding than their more sedate pre-1970 counterparts. "That's rubbish," he said yes-

terday. "I remember on the 1962/63 tour of Australia going on a journey from Brisbane to

Sydney, then changing planes to go to Perth, before finishing with a 200-mile coach journey up country. That were restful alright, especially when I was told by the team manager, Billy Griffith, that I couldn't have sweet with me meal."

However, Illingworth is p pared to lay a large part of the blame for England's lack of consistent quality on county doorsteps, blaming coaches as well as those resistant to change, in particular the competitive edge he feels two divisions would bring. "I've been pushing for that for

over 20 years," he said rueful-ly, patting down the few strands hair that had survived the same period. "But there are just

it to be accepted." An attitude, Illingworth thinks, that will also stymie a single national academy, should one ever be built.

And yet, the problem does not appear to lie at the lower levels of talent, as the recent exploits of the England Under-19 team has shown. But where other countries take and develop their talented individuals, such as South Africa have done with 18-year-old Paril Adams and 20year-old Jacques Kallis, the county system holds them back. rarely playing them in front of more experienced players, until it is too late and confidence

and desire are at a low ebb. The county stranglehold is a difficult one to break. If England

Cup, crucial changes to the game's infrastructure will again be shelved, and a memo circulated that everything is still rosy in the garden. If English cricket is to change for the better, then Atherton's team must con-

tinue in Pakistan as they have here, and lose at all costs. As far as today goes, Craig White opens with Mike Ather-ton, and Jack Russell has been given the chance of batting at No 4. Alec Stewart is unavailable because of his hand injury.

ENGLARD SQUAD (Con-day international v South Aptics, East London, boday; M & Ather-ton (Lancabine, Capp), C White (Profester), R A Smith (Harmonine), R C Rassooli (Souchs-schier, G A Hibb. (Mocasterstree), H H Fall-brother (Lancabine), G P Thomps (Surray), D & Cont, (Dertychiel), H M K Smally (Mandiciphe), D Googh (Yorletine), R K Billagmonth (Mances-profession), B Beartin (Lancabine).

Counties

condemn

Illingworth

A year that began badly for Ray Illingworth is gradually getting worse as England's counties yesterday united in condemning

him for his claims that oot

enough Test standard players are being produced from the ranks. The counties, whose structure

within the Britannic Assurance

Championship has long been blamed for failing to provide the

competitiveness oecessary to

groom future Test players, re-

jected the England team manager's assertion that they should "look at themselves".

Illingworth believes a taleot drain is the major factor in Eng-

land's Test and ooe-day in-

teroational defeats in Sooth

Africa, saying: "The bottom line

is that we are at a pretty low ebb

for talent at the moment in Eng-

land. The counties are just not producing young players of the calibre of, say, Shaun Pollock." But the former England bats-

man Dennis Amiss, oow War-

wickshire's chief executive,

insisted: "It's disappointing to

hear comments like that because

we don't feel we could be doing

more to produce good cricketers for Warwickshire and England."

Illingworth found little sup-

port either at Lancashire, who

provided captain Michael Ath-

erton, Peter Martin, John Craw-

ley, Mike Watkinson, Neil

for England duty this winter.

the likes of Michael Athertoo and John Crawley, to see where

our priorities lie."
The former England paceman Graham Dilley, oow the bowling coach at Surrey, stressed: "If Ray Illingworth feels like that, I would have thought he is in the ideal position to do something

Geoff Ogden, the chairman of Lancashire's cricket committee, said: "You only have to look at

Pierce unable to mount a defence

Tennis

Mary Pierce had what she called "one of those days" at the Australian Open yesterday. Perhaps the world No 4 should have iocluded the word "another" in her description as her 6-4, 6-4 defeat by Elena Likhovtseva was not uotypical of the year she has had since winning the title here.

Another victim of the underdogs was Kimiko Date. The fifth seed, who was a semi-fioalist in this tournament two years ago, was embarrassed in three sets by Mana Endo, a lower-ranked fellow Japanese.

No 4. Boris Becker, struck a blow for the established order by fending off the determined Thomas Johansson. The 20year-old Swede's beroics in going to the brink of victory in the five-set match split the Melbourne crowd into two raucous groups, who got behind the players like football fans.

Pierce, who woo her first Grand Slam title by beating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in last year's final, was out of sorts in her match against Likhovtseva. who hails from Kazakhstan, fifth set. simply capitalised on Pierce's

No. 2887. Friday 19 January

Fishing at last, with hooks

10 On one's back, say, needing

help when cornered by

inst children (5)

cealing these combina-

14 Monster giving howls or

13 Limits of sexy nighties con- 24

unpleasant leers, primarily

Io Curtailed informed study.

"Crime in one US state"

11 Girl set on cooking un-

palatable stuff (7)

12 Is to take some action

volibo (4.3)

tions? (91

string of errors. "I never felt really comfortable on the court," Pierce said. "I felt like I was moving really heavily and just made a lot of mistakes."

Although she lost a marathon game on her service to let Pierce level at 2-2 in the second set, Likhovtseva broke back and held serve to pull 4-2 ahead. She wrapped up the match at 6-4 with an ace after earning three match points with foreband winners.

Pierce was at a loss to explain her poor form, but she has suffered similar lapses over the past 12 months. "It's oot so nice but then, in tennis, you oever know. It goes with the sport: you At least the men's world have some good days and bad days," the French-Canadian said.

Date, like Pierce, blamed her lacklustre 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 defeat on too many unforced mistakes but also said ber familiar rival played consisteotly well. While Pierce and Date made early exits, the 10th seed, Lindsay Davenport, and the world

No 9, Anke Huber, both had straight sets victories. Becker, Huber's fellow German, again lived dangerously, sliding to the brink of defeat against Johanssoo at two sets

Johansson, ranked 114th in

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

in association with

lose, was 2-2 and 40-0 up on Becker's serve in the third set with the No 4 seed seemingly at his mercy, but Becker, who was taken to five sets by Britain's Greg Rusedski in the first round, clawed his way back for a second

time to win 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Becker, who thrives on theatre, said his spirits were lifted in the pivotal fifth game of the third set by the almost bysterical support for his opponent from the fanatical, blue-and-yellow face-painted Swedish fans. They were making me angry ... for me it's always good to be angry because I am really going for my shots and trying to bother

the crowd even more," he said. His revival roused his own fans and the fifth set was played in a rowdy atmosphere with

boos and cheers for every point. Pete Sampras, the top seed, was happy with his form as he booked a fourth-round match against the rising young Australian, Mark Philippoussis, with a four-set defeat of Michael Joyce, a fellow American. Andre Agassi had a less sat-

for swearing during his easy sec-ood-round victory over Vince Spadea oo Wednesday. Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

DOWN

momeot (3,2,4,4)

Shows how to handle problem: to place rational alge-

braic quantity's enough

15 Oil until carb is working (9) 16 We are going round in ship, showing exhaustion (9) 17 Odds on English client be-

21 Travel on horseback round

22 Foreign country supplies guard for tower, nothing less (5)

23 French girl at sea, forget-

coming upset and irritable

good stretch of high ground

isfying day. He was fixed £1,000



Mary Pierce sees her dream of retaining her championship die at Flinders Park yesterday

France sense revenge

Rugby Union

France have started psyching themselves up for tomorrow's Five Nations opener against

Heavy precipitation, also in the storms (9) No socks for Arry, just a loop of rope (5) Entrances and annoys, missing runs (5) Well-prepared newspaper's editor conceals one (9) Local resident in Edinburgh upset, losing old pen-ny and gaining nothing (9) There'll be places for views aired on the radio (5) Exhausted, having got per-sonal best at the optimum

everything. This is the time to beat the English." ably best qualified to prove there is life after Gavin.

Roumat, the former captain, In fact, Wainwright reckons reminded everyone that this has been a good seasoo for France wheo he said: "The team has beaten the All Blacks, now we have to add England to our list of victims."

They may think they have a distinct psychological edge but their last victory in the Five Nations over any Will Carling team was back in 1988.

Over in Dublin, Scotland oeed to show that they can live

Hastings' impressive record as captain has helped him. He said: "It is far nicer to follow an established captain than be the sixth captain in two years, which implies you are taking over a rather more shaky ship.'

Ireland will have been lifted with the news that their lock Neil Francis, the outside-half, Eric Elwood, and Bath'a wing, Simon Geoghegan, are all fit for the game. For Scotland, Craig Chalmers, the outside-half, confined to the bench, has a hand injury that is causing some

Gary Rees, who has 22 caps for England on the flank, has resigned as coach of Nottingham to concentrate on playing for the second division strugglers.

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England at Parc des Princes with a rebel yell. The three players, banned for two months after staying on in South Africa following last summer's World Cup, are all fired up for the game.

Laurent Cabannes, Olivier Roumat and Thierry Lacroix last turned out for France in the third place play-off in the World Cup when they beat England 19-9 in Pretoria. That victory ended a lengthy losing sequence for the French that began some eight years ago and last night Cabannes, at 31 France's oldest player on show tomorrow, in-

of English football, have been

invited by the Bosnian Serbs,

until receotly the pariahs of in-ternational diplomacy, to play a friendly match in Banja Luka.

The game is being staged to cel-

ebrate Bosnia's return to the in-

end of the war in the former Yu-

The Bosnian Serbs are keen

to renew sporting ties around the

world and are using an English

agency, First Artists Corpora-

Having decided to invite an

English club to play in Banja

Luka, the Bosnian Serb football

tion, to help them do so.

without their former captain, Gavin Hastings, whose brother Scott yesterday passed a late fitoess test on a knee injory, as they try to overcome a rejuvenated Ireland. To emerge with victory is a tall order for the new captain, Rob Wainwright, but as a doctor of medicine he is prob-

Millwall called to Serbs' den checked the most recent Eng- mander, General Ratko Mladic, lish newspaper in their posses-

vision. The London club have since slipped to mid-table. The fact that their prospective opponents are a club whose supporters rejoice in the slogan "No ooe likes us; we don't ternational fold following the care" is purely coincidental, as is the fact that Millwall have receotly signed two players from Russia, traditional close allies of

Millwall to Bosnia to help with the peace process," Jon Smith, of First Artists, said last night. Banja Luka was at the centre of the Yugoslav war. The biggest authorities were advised that it might be too ambitious to seek town in the Serb-held part of

and was the scene of some of the sion - an October edition - and worst ethnic cleansing during the Millwall, the sometime scourge chose Millwall because they of English football, have been were theo top of the First Diwar. Prior to the war, 50 per cent of the Banja Luka population were Muslims and Croats. Now only Serbs live there.

Sports stadiums were the scene of some of the worst atrocities in the war (as they have been in other conflicts around the world), but the ground that the Bosnian Serbs have in mind was not one of them.

Millwall, who would be playing against Borac, a club side, are "We'd be delighted to take understood to have reacted positively to the invitation to play the match, hopefully within the next. four weeks, fixtures permitting. Peter Meade, the chairman, said that be would discuss the idea town in the Serb-held part of with his manager, Mick Mc-Bosnia, it was the power base of Carthy, when he returns shorta Premiership club. They then the notorious military com- ly from business abroad.

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